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Russia To 'Beef Up' Rifle Division in Tajikistan

"The Russian Defence Ministry has decided, at the request of the Tajik leadership, to beef up urgently the units of the 201st Motorised Rifle Division deployed in Tajikistan and ordered its command to 'stop resolutely the actions leading to the capture of armaments, military hardware and ammunition belonging to Russian troops, as well as illegal actions of the warring groups against Russian servicemen and their families,'" ITAR-TASS reports on 28 September. The ministry pointed to the "'dramatic aggravation of the situation'" in the republic and "warned that those who started the 'illegal actions against Russian Army units will bear full responsibility for those actions and their possible consequences.'"

Shaposhnikov Reveals Nuclear Missiles Not Yet Retargeted

Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS unified forces, revealed to INTERFAX on 26 September that nuclear missiles on CIS territory have "not yet been retargeted." Shaposhnikov explained that "the retargeting of the missiles is a technologically complicated process. Furthermore, the members of the CIS have not yet signed a treaty on strategic nuclear missiles." He also "called attention to the fact that the nuclear missiles of the United States had not yet been retargeted. In addition, the U.S. has not yet said that it is ready to retarget its missiles."

Peacekeeping Troops Seen as Only Option for Nagorno-Karabakh Peace

The 25 September cease-fire hammered out between Azerbaijan and Armenia was apparently violated shortly after its inception as fighting continued in Nagorno-Karabakh. Russian Defense Minister Grachev, one of the architects of the cease-fire, commenting to Moscow television on what the next course of action would be should the cease-fire fail, said: "Then we will have only one option—to bring in the UN troops and suppress both on the right and on the left, and those firing there, or to bring in CIS joint troops and shed a lot of blood also." But Azerbaijan's Interior Minister Iskender Khamidov countered Grachev's assertion, telling INTERFAX that "no one has the right to send foreign troops to Azerbaijan" and that the "sending of these troops to Karabakh will mean the annexation of Azerbaijan."

For his part, predicting that the introduction of Commonwealth peacekeeping forces "is not far off," Marshal Shaposhnikov revealed that he had "sent telegrams on 24 September to the leaders of the two countries [Armenia and Azerbaijan] emphasizing the readiness of the CIS joint Armed Forces to provide help in settling the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict," reports ITAR-TASS.

Russian Troops Assist in Escape of Trapped Tajikistan Leaders

During a session of talks in Kulyab, Tajikistan's Acting President Akbarsho Iskandarov and Acting Prime Minister Abdumalik Abulladjanov "were blocked...by the local guards a thousand-man strong" along with "crowds of women and children who vigorously demanded that the republic's authorities take immediate and effective measures for normalizing the situation in Tajikistan," reports INTERFAX. Iskandarov and Abulladjanov immediately sought the assistance of the Governments of Russia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan; Russian President Boris Yeltsin reportedly advised the troops to do everything possible to resolve the conflict peacefully. Eventually the leaders managed to sneak out, disguised in the airborne unit's uniforms, and returned to Dushanbe via helicopter, where they "resumed their regular duties and conducted several conferences on the government level."

Shaposhnikov: Strategic Missiles Not Yet Retargeted

OW2609195892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1912 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, the commander-in-chief of the Unified Forces of the CIS, told an INTERFAX correspondent on Saturday [26 September] that the nuclear missiles of the CIS had not yet been retargeted. Although the Russian president had made a statement on this subject, he noted that "a certain period of time will pass before this can be accomplished." According to Marshal Shaposhnikov, the retargeting of the missiles is a technologically complicated process. Furthermore, the members of the CIS have not yet signed a treaty on strategic nuclear missiles. Shaposhnikov called attention to the fact that the nuclear missiles of the United States had not yet been retargeted. In addition, the U.S. has not yet said that it is ready to retarget its missiles.

Plans Ready for Destruction of Chemical Weapons

PM2509093792 IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Article by Viktor Litovkin: "Destruction of Chemical Weapons Could Make Russia Rich"]

[Text] Preparations have been completed for stage one of the program to destroy chemical weapons in Russia. It will be discussed at a government session and at the Supreme Soviet.

The total cost of the program will be 3.334 billion rubles [R] in 1991 prices. It was devised by the Committee on Chemical and Biological Weapons Convention Problems under the Russian president, the Academy of Sciences, the ministries of defense, security, economics, industry, finance, ecology, and communications, and other interested departments.

At stage one the plan is to make three facilities fully operational. They will destroy 45 percent of all Russian chemical agents. That is 7,000 tonnes of lewisite, mustard gas, and lewisite-mustard gas mixture, some of which the country has been storing ever since World War I and which are to be found in the settlement of Gornyy, Saratov Oblast, and also in the city of Kambarka, Udmurt Republic. Moreover, at one of the plants, a former producer of chemical weapons, the destruction of 3.5 million projectiles will be organized.

How will it be done? The concept elaborated by Academicians A. Kuntsevich, O. Nefedov, Zh. Alferov, G. Devyatykh, and other eminent scientists demands that lewisite be regarded as a national raw material resource and that it be processed into a raw material of strategic value to microelectronics—extremely pure arsenic. The kind that could be used for home production and for sale on the world market. The price of it there hovers around $2,000 per kg.

The Russian State Scientific Research Institute of Chemical Technology (formerly GSNIIOKhT) has taken the lead in the open competition for the best lewisite processing technology. It offered the most effective and safest, "wet" method of preliminary neutralization of lewisite with an alkali, and subsequent electrolysis of the reaction products. This method gives off no gas, there are no furnaces involved, and nothing is burned. There is practically no effect on the environment.

In second, third, and fourth places you have the techniques proposed by the branch of the Karpov Physical Chemistry Institute in Obninsk, a scientific research institute in Nizhnyy Novgorod, and the Institute of Chemical Technology again, which devised, as a second option, a method of chlorinating lewisite.

The competition for the best technique continues. Scientists and industrialists from other states can participate. The results were recently discussed by a Russian scientists' conference at the Academy of Sciences Institute of Chemical Physics, and a similar international conference is planned for next year.

"The Russian-American agreement states that our experts will examine all the proposals, irrespective of state or national origin," Academician Anatoliy Kuntsevich, chairman of the concept committee, said.

The intention is to pay the winners in rubles and hard currency. They will be selected with the participation of the population, the public and authorities of the places where it is proposed to construct the chemical agent processing facilities. They will have guaranteed access to all the materials and documents and an equal vote when approving the final decision. Incidentally, there is a provision whereby regional businesspeople and working people at the enterprises involved in destroying chemical weapons will receive a share of the profits from the processing of them.

The mustard gas is also to be processed, after detoxification, into reaction products which can be used, for example, in the rubber industry, to accelerate the vulcanization of rubber. Corrosion-resistant, fireproof compounds to treat cross ties and timber and antiseptic liquids will be obtained from organophosphorus agents (sarin, soman, V gases).

But the most important thing, set out perhaps for the first time on such a scale in the program, is its social orientation. Some 13-15 percent of all the sums will be spent on infrastructure development, housing construction, health services, and social benefits for the residents of the places where it is proposed to site the chemical agent destruction facilities.

For example, at stage one, in Kambarka, it is planned to put an inverted siphon through the pond, construct purification installations, a water main from the city center to the military quarters, and reservoirs to supply the residents of the lower, fenced-off part of the city with water. A road will be built to Chaykovskiy and housing,

a boilerhouse, and an electricity substation will be constructed... This is scheduled to cost R385 million.

Provision of social amenities will begin well before the processing facilities are constructed and it will be a priority task. The program coordinators reckon that the population will derive real benefit from this process and will be the convention committee's allies, actively cooperating with it.

In juridical terms, stage one of the destruction of the chemical agents begins on 1 April 1993. It is then that the ecological evaluation begins, along with the feasibility study of projects, manufacture and testing of pilot facilities, refinement of them, testing of technology, and training of specialists. The plants will not start up until 30 June 1997.

They have to be ecologically safe and highly efficient in economic terms. It will mark the start of the return of Russian money squandered on the ruinous and senseless arms race.

Protocol for Azerbaijan-Armenia Cease-Fire

LD2609183392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1110 GMT 26 Sep 92

["Protocol on the Mechanism of the Withdrawal of the Armed Formations and Control of Implementation of the Agreement Between the Minister of Defense of the Azerbaijani Republic and the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Armenia of 19 September 1992"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 26 September (ITAR-TASS)—The Ministry of Defense of the Azerbaijani Republic and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Armenia, signatories of the present protocol signed in Sochi on 19 September 1992, desiring to take the necessary measures in fulfillment of the provisions of the agreement between the minister of defense of the Azerbaijani Republic and the minister of defense of the Republic of Armenia, have reached agreement on the following:

1. From 2400 on 25 September 1992 the cease-fire comes into effect for all types of armaments, and a moratorium is introduced on all types of military operations between the conflicting sides.

2. With the cease-fire from 28 September 1992, the conflicting sides, under the supervision of the representatives of the International Red Cross Committee and observers, will unconditionally carry out an exchange of prisoners and hostages and handover the remains of those who have perished.

The exchange and handover will be effected in a centralized manner within the zones of responsibility. The time and place of the exchange and handover are to be agreed at a bilateral meeting at 1500 on 28 September 1992 on the line of contiguity: Kazakh-Idzhevan and Agdam-Askeran.

3. For the period that the moratorium is in effect, as defined in article two of the agreement between the Azerbaijani minister of defense and the Armenian minister of defense, all flights by combat aircraft of the conflicting sides are banned.

Flights by civil and departmental aircraft into the conflict zone are to be monitored by observers.

4. To establish on the ground a strip at least five kilometers wide in both directions from the line of contact in which there must not be any armed formations of the opposing sides apart from observer posts consisting of units of border troops or self-defense forces without heavy weapons or combat equipment. The composition and siting of the observer posts is to be determined and agreed by the senior observers in the zones for which they are responsible.

5. Between 28 September and 5 October, 1992 all artillery and equipment with heavy weapons (12.7mm caliber and above), anti-aircraft missile complexes [ZRK], mobile anti-aircraft missile complexes [PZRK] and remote-controlled anti-tank missiles [PTUR] must be withdrawn to a distance of at least 20 km from the line of contact and must be concentrated in the appointed regions (a map is attached).

6. Railway transport is to be resumed, and its security ensured, on the lines: Akstafa-Idzhevan, Midzhevan-Megri-Nakhichevan-Yerevan, and Zangelan-Kafan. At the same time, freight will be checked in order to prevent the transport of military equipment, weapons, and also munitions, explosives, and other material and technical means of a military nature.

7. After the decision by the Governments of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Georgia, the Republic of Belarus, of Ukraine, of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the CSCE on sending their observers to the combat and cease-fire region, their status, the procedure for financing them, for accommodating material and technical supplies, for their security, and for the fulfillment by them of the tasks entrusted to them, is to be specified.

8. Monitoring of the implementation of the conditions of the agreement and the present protocol is being carried out by in five responsibility zones (a map is appended). In each of these zones, observers (of Georgia, the Republic of Belarus, Ukraine, the Republic of Kazakhstan) will operate. Attached to the men in charge of the zones is one representative from each of the states enumerated above, and also one representative from the Azerbaijani republic and the Republic of Armenia.

9. From the beginning of the cease-fire, provision is to be made for establishing bilateral liaison between observers and the command of the sides for mutual exchange of information on fulfillment of the conditions of the agreement.

10. Supervision of implementation of the agreement and its protocol is effected by the observers along the dividing airfields where combat aircraft are stationed, both by setting up stationary observers' posts and also mobile groups of observers.

11. Senior observers are to each have one company (not less than 100 men strong) attached to them for eliminating conflict and crime situations that may arise.

12. The council of observers set up with the participation of the sides elaborates and also monitors the implementation of sanctions and guarantees of the fulfillment of the conditions of the agreement.

The first meeting of the Council of Observers is to be held in Moscow on 29 September, 1992. The places where the council of observers and senior observers in the zones of their responsibility will be located will be agreed with the ministers of defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia.

13. By 6 October 1992 the Council of Observers is to ensure the arrival and the stationing in their appointed zones of responsibility of the observers from one of the states mentioned in the agreement. As soon as the

observers arrive they are to begin carrying out their functional duties in accordance with the protocol "on the status of groups of military observers and collective forces for keeping the peace in the CIS" (Tashkent, 15 May 92).

14. The present protocol comes into force from the moment of its signing and the arrival of observers and is valid for two months. With the agreement of the participants, it may be amplified and prolonged until the full-scale settlement of the conflict.

Special Opinion of the Delegation of the Defense Ministry of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

To strengthen peace in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, and to exclude the delivery of weapons, ammunition, and explosives along the Lachin corridor, implementation of the following measures is to be envisaged:

—all non-native inhabitants (having arrived after the beginning of the conflict) are to be removed from Nagorno-Karabakh before 10 October 1992;

—withdrawal is to begin from 5 October, 1992, of all artillery and equipment with heavy weapons (12.7mm caliber and higher), anti aircraft missile systems, mobile anti-aircraft missile systems, anti-tank guided missiles, and Nagorno-Karabakh armed formations along the Lachin corridor and outside the borders of the Azerbaijani Republic;

—moving and delivery of cargoes from the Republic of Armenia into Nagorno-Karabakh along the Lachin corridor is to be excluded until the situation stabilizes and heavy equipment and weapons are withdrawn from the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The Azerbaijani Republic guarantees the provision of all necessities to Nagorno-Karabakh inhabitants, while the Republic of Armenia will render humanitarian aid to the population of Nagorno-Karabakh via the towns of Baku and Gyandzha under the monitoring of observers.

Armenia, Azerbaijan Report Cease-fire Violations

LD2609150192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 26 Sep 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The truce in the zone of the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict was due to come into force from 0000 today in accordance with the Sochi accords.

We are receiving very contradictory reports from there. Armenia and Azerbaijan are accusing each other of violating this agreement. According to reports from Armenia, the truce is not being observed by the Azerbaijani side. Last night villages in Tauz and Goris rayons were shelled; considerable destruction and casualties were reported. Missile and artillery shelling resumed this morning. Major units of the Azerbaijan Army with the support of armored equipment and tanks have begun an offensive toward the Armenian villages of Farukh and Karaglukh.

Reports from Azerbaijan say that a number of villages in the Lachin rayon of Azerbaijan were shelled today from the territory of Armenia.

Grachev on Defense Minister's Meeting in Sochi

LD2709215392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 27 Sep 92

[From the "Itogi" news program]

[Text] A new attempt to achieve a cease-fire was made this week in Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan. This time it was the professional military who were in charge, and it seems they managed to achieve more than the politicians. Numerous reports about cease-fire violations are still coming in, but at least the mechanism for a truce was drawn up. This happened during the secret meeting of the defense ministers of Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia, which took place in Sochi.

The Russian defense minister has supplied the details of the meeting in an interview with our correspondent Etibar Dzhafarov. Pavel Grachev is speaking especially for "Itogi" from a military hospital in Archangelskoye.

[Begin Grachev recording] If one is to touch upon the preamble, the background, I was guided in my work over a long period of time by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's instructions. The essence of this work was to establish close contacts with both defense ministers, even become friends with them. I have managed to do this, and the most important thing which I really aimed at and achieved in the end was that I constantly heard them saying: You are our brother, our elder brother; Russia was, is, and will be with us. I constantly conveyed this information to the president. Right from the very start both sides gave assurances that they favored a cease-fire. We did not touch upon any of the political issues, although alarming reports are still coming in, of course, and one can still see a certain hostility in them. I reassured the ministers by saying that what we agreed upon is a very natural conclusion. I appealed to their feelings, their pride, their dignity, to the tradition of the mountain people, to be men of their word. I constantly reminded them of their vow of friendship to me. This helped them achieve self-control.

Why did we choose this particular distance—20 km? Because 20 km is the maximum firing range of the given types of weapons. Even if any of the extremists wishes to fire at the opposite side, the missile will land on his own territory. This is a very good decision. We decided to resume railway traffic in the directions of Akstafa-Idzhevan, and Mindzhivan-Megri-Nakhichevan- Yerevan, for example. This is very important.

I think the time has come when we can end the war. If this does not happen, we at least know there will be no cannon fire for two or three days, after which firing will resume. Then we will have only one option—to bring in the UN troops and suppress both on the right and on the left, and those firing there, or to bring in CIS joint troops and shed a lot of blood also. I repeat here yet again that no matter how small the group of people, it can never be destroyed. [end recording]

Grachev on Karabakh Cease-Fire, Abkhazia Talks

LD2709021092 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 26 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] Almost five years of bloody war in Nagorno-Karabakh; thousands of lives lost, orphaned families, towns and villages destroyed. Five years of skirmishes, at first with hunting rifles, which are simply ridiculous in comparison with the military equipment both sides now possess, including weapons of mass destruction. Numerous attempts to stop the bloodshed by international organizations, heads of state, and politicians were unsuccessful.

Nagorno-Karabakh is the subject of attention not only from Russia but also of neighboring Turkey and Iran. Many Western experts believe that the struggle to carve out spheres of influence has already begun. An agreement on a total cease-fire has been signed at a meeting of the defense ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia, with the mediation of Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

[Begin recording] [Grachev] The first point of the agreement states that all military operations are to cease as of 0000 today. It is now 2345, so in 15 minutes it will be exactly midnight, and so far—knock on wood—not a single shot has been fired. Every six hours the defense ministers for each side will notify me of how they are behaving and how they are carrying out the agreement, although of course alarming reports are coming in.

They have decided the question of resuming rail links, for example on the following routes: Akstafa-Idzhevan and Mindzhavan-Megri-Nakhichevan-Yerevan, which is very important.

[Correspondent] I understand you also had a meeting with Defense Minister Kitovani in Georgia. What did you manage to achieve during that meeting?

[Grachev] I consider that our conversation....[changes thought] Personally, I am dissatisfied with that conversation in the sense that only Kitovani was present. I would like to meet the Abkhazian military leader, whom unfortunately I do not know. I have not reached Ardzinba; Ardzinba I know well. And I would like to meet Viktor Kakagali, I mean Vitaliy Kakagali. Unfortunately, he has not come, but I do not know why; perhaps then we would decide something. [end recording]

Shaposhnikov on Forces in Karabakh, Tajikistan

LD2509200492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1609 GMT 25 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Sep—The introduction of Commonwealth peacekeeping forces into the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is not far off, according to a forecast by Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS joint Armed Forces. He stated this today at a meeting with teachers and students at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, where he was giving a lecture on the military aspects of collective security.

The marshal said a mechanism for introducing CIS peacekeeping forces into Nagorno-Karabakh is envisaged by agreements reached at the summit level, but as for its implementation, it will be necessary for the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents to make a request to the council of Commonwealth heads of state. In order to accelerate this process, the marshal sent telegrams on 24 September to the leaders of the two countries emphasizing the readiness of the CIS joint Armed Forces to provide help in settling the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Answering a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent about the possibility of introducing peacekeeping forces into Tajikistan, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov said: "We are ready to provide help to this independent state if there is a request by the leadership of Tajikistan." So far this has not taken place. The marshal said the situation in this republic has become so heated "that certain representatives of public organizations have asked me to study the question of deploying peacekeeping forces there." Commenting on the results of his visit to Tajikistan, he said the military experts did not succeed in convincing the republic's leadership of the need to deploy peacekeeping forces. "However, a positive result of the contact is already showing itself," Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov noted. "We have closed the Tajik-Afghan border."

Defense Ministry To Beef Up Troops in Tajikistan

LD2809142292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1343 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow September 28 TASS—The Russian Defence Ministry has decided, at the request of the Tajik leadership, to beef up urgently the units of the 201st Motorised Rifle Division deployed in Tajikistan and ordered its command to "stop resolutely the actions leading to the capture of armaments, military hardware and ammunition belonging to Russian troops, as well as illegal actions of the warring groups against Russian servicemen and their families".

A statement issued here by the Russian Defence Ministry explains this measure by the "dramatic aggravation of the situation" in the former Soviet Central Asian republic, where armed confrontation between supporters of the ousted President Rakhman Nabiyev and the opposition has been going on for several months. The developments in the south of the republic, in the Kurgan-Tyube region, are especially alarming. According to the statement, "threats against the personnel of the Russian Army, the capture of hostages, military hardware and weapons to be used in combat operations are becoming more and more frequent."

The Defence Ministry urged all political parties and public movements of the republic to "stop the fratricidal conflict."

It warned that those who started the "illegal actions against Russian Army units will bear full responsibility for those actions and their possible consequences."

Additional Observers Going to Nagorno-Karabakh

LD2809152392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1008 GMT 28 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow September 28 TASS—Russia is mounting its peace-keeping efforts in Nagorno-Karabakh and will send additional observers there, although other former Soviet republics have not yet adopted decisions on the issue of sending observers to the disputed enclave.

Russia has already decided to send its observers to Nagorno-Karabakh, while only Defence Ministries of Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Georgia have agreed to follow suit. Neither the governments nor the parliaments of the republics have adopted decisions on the issue, TASS was told by Russian Deputy Defence Minister Georgiy Kondratyev on Monday.

This is the reason while a meeting of the council of observers on the ceasefire in the enclave, scheduled for Tuesday, will hardly take place, he added.

44 additional Russian observers will leave for the enclave on Tuesday to join six colleagues which left for Karabakh last Friday, the deputy minister said. They will split in two groups, each of which will be protected by a platoon of Russian soldiers, he added.

Kondratyev believes the situation in Karabakh is gradually normalising. Shootings there are of local character, he added.

Kozyrev Articulates Foreign Policy Position

LD2509120792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0834 GMT 25 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Kolesnichenko]

[Text] The main danger facing Russia today is not the open coup but an attempt by the former party and states functionaries to turn the country back to stagnation, to impose on it the tormenting way of half capitalism, half state-mafiosi-type oligarchy. This statement was made by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev at Columbia University on Thursday [24 September].

The Foreign Minister who is in New York in connection with the start of the UN General Assembly session said that obviously the outcome of this struggle is being decided inside Russia. I would like to confirm once again that the president and his government and the broad political forces are committed to the course of radical reform. But the stakes are extremely high. The collapse of Soviet communism also signified the real ending of the cold war. On the one hand, unprecedented opportunities have arisen for co-operation between the democratic states of the world and for the establishment of a new world order. But on the other hand a sort of Pandora's box of new challenges to national and international security has been opened.

Without democracy taking deep root in Russia it is hard to imagine reforms in other republics of the former Soviet Union, Kozyrev emphasised. Without this it is hard to expect Moscow to pursue a consistent policy towards establishing peace in Yugoslavia and some other "trouble spots." The former huge socialist state, brimming with weaponry, can slip into chaos and be controlled by aggressive nationalist-minded blocs. On the contrary, the victory of democracy in Russia will have a stabilising influence on the entire Eurasian space. Even today Russian involvement helps significantly defuse tensions in the Dniester region, Ossetia, Abkhazia and Tajikistan.

The priority of Russia is to form a democratic community of independent states, Kozyrev continued. One of the most important tasks is to ensure human rights for people of all nationalities dispersed on the territory of the former Soviet Union. Here Russia counts on active support from the democratic public in the United States and the West as a whole.

There is a viewpoint that great Russia, no matter what it is, is unpredictable and dangerous, while assistance should be given to it cautiously, the Russian minister

emphasised. But he said it is much better to have a strong, confident friend and ally. The alternative is to get a military powerful but unfriendly country. On any count, banking on "lessening" the status of Russia has nothing in common with political realism. Thanks to its manpower, intellectual resources, mineral riches and geographic location and size, Russia is a great power, which firmly wants to be an equal, strong member of the global family.

The Russian foreign minister expressed gratitude for political, moral and material support at the "early stages of transformation." At the same time, he noted that Russia has no inclination to remain forever a country living off credits. "Today prosperity must be connected with a new strategic democratic initiative on earth," Kozyrev declared. He then gave a break-down of the components of this strategy: a joint programme to promote investments into the Russian economy, training Russian managers and entrepreneurs in industrially developed countries, special programmes to promote small and medium-sized business in Russia, international legal probation of the new Russian legislation, a joint programme of military conversion, providing favourable conditions for competitive Russian exports.

The strategy of partnership with Russia opens up huge possibilities for the world economy to shake off stagnation and to develop at rapid pace, Kozyrev emphasised in conclusion. It is important to give up the formula "7 + 1" of major democratic and economic powers and work towards the formula of "8." Russia is for alliance with the United States and the West. It is an alliance that will not be directed against someone, but an alliance of like-minded states that share common values and work together for the common good. Russia neither heads for the West nor turns only to the East. It preserves its historic and cultural identity. It does not counterpose its alliance with democratic states against southern or eastern neighbours, or its CIS partners. Russia firmly declares that it will uphold its own interests without trampling underfoot the interests of others, will seek a reasonable combination of political roads.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian at 0800 GMT 25 Sep 92 adds the following: "Russia is participating in resolving the Yugoslav problem and in the peace-keeping coalition in the Persian Gulf, Kozyrev stated. Together with the United States we, as co-sponsors of the peace process, are using our relations with the Arabs and Israel for a historic compromise in the Near East. In turn, what will happen in our country will depend to a large extent on how we are helped to join the 'Club' of democratic countries.

["After his speech, Foreign Minster Andrey Kozyrev was handed a Columbia University diploma for global leadership, the struggle for democracy and human rights. He replied to questions from those present."]

Kozyrev Comments on UN Role, Other Issues

LD2809060292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0110 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Menkes]

[Text] UN Organization, 28 Sep—"In our view, the 47th session of the UN Organization General Assembly has not made a bad start. The desire of states to turn it into a body for concrete practical activity, rather than a podium for declarations, can be felt." This was stated by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey V. Kozyrev in a conversation with a group of journalists. Kozyrev is heading the Russian delegation at the session.

The delegates are concentrating their attention on a new agenda—to a significant extent thanks to the report by the UN secretary general entitled "Agenda for the World," the minister continued.

Russia has made its contribution to the preparation of proposals to be included in this report. Discussion is under way at the session about what the world will be like in the post-confrontational, post-communist era. A feeling of hope is palpable, although, of course, there are a lot of complex problems.

Among the issues advanced by our delegation is the problem of the organization of opposition to aggressive nationalism, or what we call national-patriotism, and what in actual fact has nothing in common with patriotism. "We propose reviewing the protection of human rights and the rights of ethnic minorities as a global problem." "The initial reaction to our formulation of this question has been quite encouraging." Our thought is that of "using the concept and mechanism of protection enshrined in the UN Charter. Of course, the system of protection was set up for combatting colonialism. One can attempt, however, to adapt this system to the new circumstances."

There exist a whole number of bodies and organizations in the UN system that are engaged in the problem of human rights, A.V. Kozyrev further remarked. "But today we are proposing shifting the accent in their work to what concerns us. To wit, the problem of the rights of the Russian and Russian-speaking population in the zone of the former USSR." As for a specific mechanism for these purposes, it will most likely be worked out as a result of the combined efforts of various states.

Certain organs of the media have reported that, in his speech to the session, U.S. President George Bush for the first time proposed using existing material and technical resources for peacekeeping operations, the minister continued. Basically, this discussion was initiated much earlier. It is the continuation of a conversation that we were also party to and that we continue to take part in. "For several years, back within the framework of the former Soviet Union, we have been working at a practical level on how to lower the costs of peacekeeping

operations by using existing material and technical resources. Incidentally, we have achieved certain successes in this. An example is the airlifts which we carry out on UN orders for some operations." Anyway, in the countries of the former USSR a whole range of peacekeeping ideas are being carried out in practice, A.V. Kozyrev noted. At the same time, UN experience is being utilized. Our conversations here demonstrate that it is obvious to many that "in a number of regions there is the necessity of using force to restore and maintain peace. For a number of reasons, however, including material ones, the UN is not at present prepared to send troops to these regions." But the CIS countries are acting in this respect themselves. Forces have been set up in Ossetia, the Dniester region, and Abkhazia.

The minister drew a clear distinction between the role of the armed forces in Yugoslavia and in the CIS. "We propose using armed forces by agreement, in accordance with international law, through the mechanisms of the CIS that have already been set up. All the documents regarding this have already been signed." "At the same time, we are by no means isolating these efforts from the CSCE and the UN. We are constantly informing the international organizations about our efforts and demonstrating that these actions are being carried out within the framework of legality set up by the UN.

"Our efforts must not be undertaken without notification of the Security Council." And the UN has no complaints about us in this regard. There exists a credit of confidence here. Developing the thought he expressed earlier on the need to extend the mandate of the UN forces and grant the "Blue Berets" the right to return fire, the head of the Russian delegation noted that this in no way contradicts the UN Charter. On the contrary, this would be a return to the ideas which were enshrined originally in the Charter. In Chapter VII of this document, it talks about the use of armed forces to restore peace and, if need be, to punish the aggressor.

In response to a journalist's request to comment on Russia's position on Yugoslavia's membership in the UN, the minister said: "Originally the West and a number of other countries insisted on the exclusion of Yugoslavia from the UN. We did not share this point of view. Of course, we could have used our right of veto in the Security Council. But we acted differently, and as a result achieved a decision that does not envisage exclusion, but contains a number of important decisions, one of which permits, among other things, the Yugoslav flag to fly in front of the UN headquarters to this day."

Touching on the criticism that is being voiced in Russia regarding the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a number of its decisions, A.V. Kozyrev said: "To (?speak one's mind) does not mean bickering. We have to talk to people in a decent way. For 73 years, we were in a state of confrontation with the whole world and nothing good came of this for our people. Let us take, for instance, our relations today with Japan. Yes, there is a territorial dispute. But this is, after all, no reason for inflating an anti-Japanese psychosis. We have to patiently search for the resolution of problems. I met Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe here. We confirmed what was clear from the outset. To wit, that it was not a question of cancellation, but deferment of the Russian president's visit to Japan. Now it is obvious that this visit cannot take place before next year. We will carry on our efforts to prepare this visit."

In this, as in other issues, "we will continue, relying on confidence in the president, the mandate of the president, to seek to prevent Russia from sliding into isolation again. We will help it to become a normal great power and a member of the club of the most democratic and most advanced states," the minister stressed. We are not shielding ourselves from criticism, but criticism must be constructive. "The line of setting Russia up against the rest of the world under the pretext of defending its independence is a betrayal of her national interests." "It is far better to defend one's state interests through cooperation with other countries, and not through setting oneself up against them. Otherwise one should not go to the UN, but to the battlefield."

Answering a question by a correspondent on his attitude toward the ideas of Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev on setting up a confederation on the territory of the former Soviet Union, the Russian minister said that from the outset we have been advocating this. If and when our partners are ready for this, there will not be any objections on our part.

Commentary on U.S. Opposition to Iran Sub Sales

NC2509162892 Moscow Radio Moscow in Persian 1330 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Commentary by Sergey Viktorov]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev announced Moscow's intention to sell two diesel submarines to Iran despite U.S. protests. After meeting with acting U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger at the United Nations, Andrey Kozyrev stated that this deal cannot destabilize the regional situation. The Russian foreign minister added: Russia will continue to export arms and military equipment in order to gain the necessary foreign exchange which is needed for the reconstruction of its economy. We invite you to listen to a commentary by Radio Moscow analyst Sergey Viktorov:

The only thing that can be added to the Russian foreign minister's remarks is that it is impossible that two diesel—and not nuclear—submarines can play an outstanding role in an area like the Persian Gulf, which is full of armed forces and arms. Thus, I think that Iran's neighbors in the region have no reason whatsoever for concern. Moreover, it is highly possible that the addition of these submarines to the Iranian Navy may, on the contrary, play the role of a new balancing element in the existing balance of power in the Persian Gulf.

But let us talk about the crux of the matter and U.S. complaints. In Washington, they do not have much affection for the Iran of today. The feeling is mutual in Tehran, too. This is understandable. But the long-standing hostility between Iran and the United States has and can have nothing to do either with Russian-Iranian contacts or Russian-U.S. contacts. Both Russia and Iran are sovereign countries and have the right to exchange any deal that is not contrary to the two countries' international committments, such as the agreement on the nonproliferation of nuclear arms. We see that this is not the case.

Russia is free to sell its conventional arms to anyone it deems necessary. Only Iraq, Libya, and the countries that have been formed in the area where the former Yugoslavia was situated are exempt, because the United Nations has imposed sanctions on them.

As for the United States, dissatisfaction over the sale of Russian submarines to Iran, to put it elegantly in this case, Washington had no right to comment, and was not very consistent. After all, when selling its various types of arms to Saudi Arabia, or when selling aircraft to Taiwan, the United States does not ask for anyone's consent; and if the sale of arms is not contrary to U.S. international commitments, then no complaint can be voiced even if, say, Israel or China react to such sales.

Therefore, the Americans should not hope that Russia will relinquish its interests in its deals with Iran and namely in the sale of arms to that country because of Washington's anti-Iranian stance.

Commentary Critical of U.S. Protest Over Sale

LD2509220392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Commentary by Viktor Yenikeyev]

[Text] Russia's Foreign Minister, Andrey Kozyrev, has reiterated Moscow's intention to sell two diesel submarines to Iran. He confirmed that at a meeting with the acting U.S. secretary of state, Lawrence Eagleburger. Mr. Kozyrev is in New York where he is taking part in the 47th session of the UN General Assembly. Here is a commentary from Viktor Yenikeyev:

[Yenikeyev] In recent months Moscow and Washington have often revealed identical views on many world problems. Such coincidence has become so frequent that it has become a target for sarcastic remarks, but in this case there is a different situation. Despite protests from the United States, Russia does not give up plans to sell two diesel submarines to Iran.

Informing his American counterpart about this, Mr. Kozyrev refuted U.S. allegations that the deal could destabilize the situation in the Middle East. More than that, as Mr. Kozyrev remarked, Moscow would further continue to export military hardware to earn foreign exchange essential for market reforms. The French news agency recalls in this connection that earlier Russia announced its plans to sell two small nuclear reactors to Iran to be used exclusively in peaceful purposes.

U.S. arguments about a possible imbalance in the Persian Gulf because of the purchase of two Russian submarines by Tehran can mislead on credulous people [as heard]. On a closer look at the problem it is easy to see that its cause lies somewhere else.

We may recall Washington's turbulent reaction to Moscow's decision to sell cryogenic engines to India, although virtually all experts admitted that the engines could not possibly be used in military purposes.

Then Washington stiffly refused to buy Russian plutonium despite an affordable price and the desire of American businessmen to buy plutonium in Russia. Afterwards time came when it seemed that the ice has melt and administration officials announced with gentle smiles on their faces their decision to change the initial position. According to Washington officials that was then above all in view of the difficulties facing Russia's economy, which the United States would like to help.

There certainly is only a grain of truth in these words, but it deserves gratitude as it is. However, during their current stay in Washington, none of the two Russian vice premiers, neither Shokhin nor Shumeyko, has been received by the U.S. treasury secretary, although a deal on plutonium was to be discussed at the planned meeting. We may also recall that there have been considerable obstacles to the export to the United States of Russian space industry products, in which American scientists are so much interested.

These and many other examples confirm the correctness of the external affairs minister [title as heard], Petr Aven, who declared in New York recently that the United States allows Russian goods to enter its internal market with reluctance and hinders this process in every way. We may add that it allows Russian goods to the international market with reluctance also. This concerns military and civilian products alike.

As you can see, there is a paradoxic situation. On the one hand, the United States helps market reforms in Russia. On the other, it blocks them in every way. Such a Washington stand creates additional difficulties for Boris Yeltsin and his team of reformers containing with difficulty the mounting pro-communist opposition shouting at every corner that the West is cheating and betraying us.

Moscow Completes Troop Withdrawal From Mongolia

LD2509133692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1257 GMT 25 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Sep—As officially reported today by Russia's Foreign Ministry, in line with accords that were

reached earlier, the withdrawal of Russian troops from Mongolia was completed in full in September. Talks are being held on matters concerning military townlets that have been left on Mongolia's territory, objects of the training and material base, and other problems.

China Welcomes Pullout

LD2809082292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0727 GMT 28 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Spirin]

[Text] Beijing September 28 TASS—China welcomes the completion of the Russian troop withdrawal from Mongolia announced by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a Chinese foreign political department spokesman said today in an interview with ITAR-TASS. The report on the withdrawal, which was carried out in September in accordance with agreements reached earlier, was circulated on Sunday [27 September].

Russian, Georgian Officials Discuss Abkhazia

MK2609105392 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Sep 92 p 3

[Stepan Pugachev report under "Georgia" rubric: "Russia Will Not Be Third Referee in Abkhazia-Georgia Conflict. It Has Its Own Problems in North Caucasus"]

[Text] As was announced at the press center of the Georgian Embassy in Moscow, on 24 September the members of the Georgian State Council delegation, the representatives of the "DemAbkhazia" Georgian faction of the Abkhazian parliament, and Georgia's deputy permanent representative in Moscow Volskiy met with Deputy Chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities Syrovatko and other Russian parliamentarians.

The Georgian delegation handed to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet members an appeal to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet from the Georgian State Council and also from "DemAbkhazia." The "DemAbkhazia" faction expressed the hope that the parliament of the Russian Federation "will not follow the lead of certain political circles seeking to restrict the sovereignty of a state—the Republic of Georgia—and will be guided when reaching a decision by the norms of international law." In the faction's opinion, the withdrawal of the North Caucasus military formations from the territory of Georgia "will undoubtedly put an end to the war in Abkhazia."

In their appeal the members of the State Council expressed the hope that the Russian parliament will remain faithful to the provisions of the final document of the 3 September meeting. "Only by observing the provisions of this agreement," they believe, "will it be possible to halt the bloodshed and achieve the peaceful settlement of the said conflict." The main issue agitating the Georgian side is the withdrawal of the North Caucasus armed formations from Abkhazian territory. The authors of the document reminded the Russian parliament that "insuring law and order and the protection of borders and communications facilities represents the most important functions of any state." The participation in the conflict of the citizens of another state (the Russian state) is assessed as "a fact of aggression by reactionary-minded external forces against a sovereign state."

"Any support for separatist forces outside the confines of Russia will in the very near future prove to be a catastrophe for the multinational Russian state," the document warns the Russian parliamentarians, "and will entail bloody clashes both in the Caucasus and in other regions of Russia."

During a quite friendly conversation the representatives of the Russian authorities particularly emphasized that the question of the situation in the North Caucasus, which has been included on the agenda of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's fifth session, and, in particular, the problem of defining the new status of the North Caucasian territories in connection with the fact that they have become border territories, are deemed to be Russia's internal problems. The representatives of Georgia could only agree with this. Both sides reaffirmed an earlier-adopted decision that the Russian Supreme Soviet must not act as a third referee in the internal conflict of the Georgian Republic and, consequently, speeches by Georgia's representatives at the session of the Russian parliament are not advisable.

On the eve of the Russian Federation parliament's discussion of the North Caucasus question the Georgian ambassador, G. Chkheidze, sent a note to Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman R. Khasbulatov which pointed out the inadmissibility of the Abkhazian delegation's participation in the discussion. "The participation in the work of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet session of the delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the autonomous republic of Abkhazia and its chairman without the agreement of the leadership of the Georgian Republic will be viewed as a discussion by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet session of the internal problems of the Republic of Georgia, which is a violation of international norms and grossinterference in the affairs of a sovereign state." As is known, the Abkhazian delegation has not been offered the chance to take part in the sitting of the session.

Grachev on Talks With Georgian Defense Minister

LD2709222692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 27 Sep 92

["Excerpt" of interview with Defense Minister General Pavel Grachev by correspondent Etibar Dzhafarov; place, date not given; from the "Itogi" newscast—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Dzhafarov] I understand you also had a meeting with Defense Minister Kitovani in Georgia.

What did you manage to achieve during that meeting? The conflict there is also very intense, and blood is being shed there.

[Grachev] Viktor Pavlovich Barannikov and I discussed the issue of a meeting with Kitovani. It is true, though, many people are unaware that we invited him several times to visit Moscow—there was no mention of this in the press—that we had meetings with him in the outskirts of the city where we discussed the issue, saying to him: Listen, Tengiz Kallistratovich, if you are really our good friend, do things as they should be done between friends. We do understand that you are in charge of hardware, equipment, that you are the defense minister of the independent state, that you received your quotas defined by the Tashkent meeting, and that currently you are forming your own army. Yes, we are aware of the fact that Abkhazia is within Georgia. Still, let us tackle this issue.

Quite a good option was worked out as a result of our talk. First, the towns of Gagra, Sukhumi and Pitsunda were declared military-free zones. Second, Kitovani showed readiness to withdraw troops. But to replace the troops, detachments of Georgian militia are to be brought in to those regions. He showed a readiness to cease fire, in principle.

Personally, I am dissatisfied with that conversation in the sense that only Kitovani was present. I would like to meet the Abkhazian military leader, whom unfortunately I do not know. I have not reached Ardzinba; Ardzinba I know well. And I would like to meet Viktor Kakagali, I mean Vitaliy Kakagali. Unfortunately, he has not come, but I do not know why; perhaps then we would decide something. Meanwhile, we have a written promise—which is not a document, we have Kitovani's consent to fulfill a number of serious documents, but no consent from the Abkhazian side.

That is why I do not regard this piece of paper as a document, though certain work was indeed carried out. We must carry out a specific and laborious piece of work. But first, one must build up one's health, then fly out there again, hire a good speedboat, put everyone involved aboard, take them out to the middle of the Black Sea, drop anchor, and leave them there until they come to an agreement.

I mean this as a joke, of course. But I do think it is possible to come to an agreement.

Deputy Defense Minister on Baltic Withdrawal

PM2509095792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Sep 92 p 1

[Report on interview with Deputy Defense Minister Colonel General B. Gromov by ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin; place, date not given: "Troop Withdrawal From the Baltics Must Be Civilized. Colonel General Boris Gromov, Russian Deputy Defense Minister, Comments on Course of Talks With Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia"]

[Text] The withdrawal of the Northwest Group of Forces units and formations from the Baltics must and will be "systematic and civilized," Russian Deputy Defense Minister Colonel General Boris Gromov thinks. The Russian-Lithuanian protocol which makes provision for our troops' redeployment to be completed by fall 1993 is "by no means synonymous with a readiness to flee." "This is the only possible compromise acceptable in the conditions that have taken shape, although the Lithuanian side did nothing to ensure that Russia accepted its terms with satisfaction," he said in an interview with your ITAR-TASS commentator.

Commenting on the course of the Russian-Lithuanian negotiating process on military matters, Boris Gromov pointed out that on the basis of the Russian president's ordinance and the real situation in the region, the Defense Ministry formulated some documents pertaining to the troop withdrawal from Lithuania, among them the draft of a full-scale interstate agreement. A Russian troop withdrawal schedule is one of the appendices to this document, which has not as yet been signed at summit level. It was recently criticized by the Russian Supreme Soviet Defense and Security Committee. Russian legislators pointed to the fact that the Defense Ministry is already putting the schedule into effect at a time when a basic agreement has not yet entered into force.

"I think that deputies should assess correctly the situation that has taken shape over Russian troops in the Baltic and, in particular, in Lithuania," General Gromov stressed. "The point is that the drafting of young replacements into the Northwest Group of Forces is being implemented in accordance with the laws adopted by the Baltic countries, and the dispatch of Russian troop contingents, including those to take the place of the number of troops discharged into the reserve, has been banned. The natural consequence of this is for the number of Russian troops to fall constantly. After enlisted men and NCO's [noncommissioned officers] who have done their prescribed term of service in the Baltics have been discharged this fall and next spring, only our officers and warrant officers will be left. It is no secret that they are already on the verge of despair under the pressure of the situation that the Baltic authorities have tried to create with regard to the Russian-speaking population and primarily with regard to Russian servicemen. In view of these circumstances it is foolish to insist on the deferral of the troop withdrawal from Lithuania."

What is more, the military leader pointed out, because of well-known circumstances, the Russian ground forces grouping in the Baltics is no longer performing the tasks it was set in the past. This does not apply to the Baltic Fleet, which is to preserve its presence in the region. General Gromov stressed that the Defense Ministry will

press to ensure that the Russian Navy's most important strategic installations in the Baltics continue to function. On some positions, the leadership of these states has expressed its willingness to compromise.

At the request of your ITAR-TASS correspondent, Gromov specified the number of troops and military hardware to be redeployed to Russia, pointing out that there are roughly 35,000 Russian enlisted men and officers in Lithuania today, more than 15,000 in Latvia, and roughly 24,000 in Estonia. What is more, roughly 670 tanks, more than 1,500 armored fighting vehicles, and almost 400 aircraft and helicopters, along with roughly 700,000 tonnes of material resources and munitions are to be transferred to Russia. These figures give an idea of the colossal shipments that will have to be made over the next few years.

Nonetheless it is Boris Gromov's conviction that the most acute, painful question associated with our troops' departure from the Baltic is the question of the dates and conditions for the construction of housing for the families of officers and warrant officers without apartments, of whom there are roughly 7,500 in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia today. In all, 56,000 Russian troops serving in units and formations to be withdrawn from our "close neighbors" do not have homes of their own today.

A compromise solution to this problem has already been found with the Lithuanian side. Russian servicemen's apartments will be sold at auction and the money obtained handed over to the former owners for housing construction in Russia. Agreements of this kind have not been reached with Estonia and Latvia, but we will firmly insist that they are secured, Colonel General Gromov noted. The Russian Defense Ministry and Government are doing all they can to ensure that the Baltic states provide the requisite compensation in full and on time. If this condition is not met, there can hardly be any serious talk about any progress in the talks and the status of and timetable for the withdrawal of our troops from the Baltic, he concluded.

Ministry Official Says Estonia Violating Treaty

OW2609062692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0600 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Andrey Borodin and others; from "Diplomatic Panorama"; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry attaches top priority to protecting compatriots living abroad, the chief Russian delegate at state talks with Estonia Vasiliy Svirin has told DP [Diplomatic Panorama]. He said that the Russian Foreign Ministry had repeatedly expressed its concern to the Estonian side over the position of the Russian population in Estonia. Ethnic Russians account for 38 percent of the Estonian population. Now they have been deprived of their citizenship and political rights and are compelled to go through the naturalization procedure again, the Russian Foreign Ministry official said.

He recalled that until recently Estonia had refused to discuss the draft treaty of settling the issues of citizenship. Svirin believes that this is a violation of Article Three of the Treaty on the Principles of Inter-State Relations Between Russia and Estonia.

The diplomat said that great efforts were being exerted now to produce a legal basis of bilateral relations. The negotiations ran into certain problems, but were keynoted by mutual respect, which helped resolve many differences.

Svirin, who has the rank of special ambassador said that six rounds of talks had already taken place. The seventh is to be held in Tallinn; however, the elections in Estonia have delayed a decision on an exact date so far. The preliminary agenda includes trading and economic cooperation in 1993, foreign debts of the former USSR and property problems.

About border relations with Estonia the Russian official said that any territorial claims to Russia were "totally hopeless and running counter to the basic CSCE documents". He said that the Russian authorities rejected the very term "disputed territories", Estonia has applied to the area of the city of Narva.

The diplomat reviewed the withdrawal of former Soviet troops from Estonia. Early this year those troops taken over by Russia totalled about 25 thousand men. This year 6.5 thousand officers and men will move home. The timetable for 1993, presented to the Estonian side recently, envisages the return home of another 6,300 troops.

About the possibility of speeding up the withdrawal of troops from Estonian the ambassador said that the time-table incorporated proposals by the Foreign Ministry, but the pace of redeployment depended directly on the availability of facilities in Russia to accommodate arriving troops.

Official: Latvia 'Not Ready' for Withdrawal Talks

LD2509171292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1421 GMT 25 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Skripnikov]

[Text] Moscow September 25 TASS—Latvia is not ready yet for talks based on the complex approach towards the withdrawal of troops and other issues, including human rights problems in Lithuania, approved by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and proposed by Russia on August 6, Sergey Zotov, head of the Russian delegation to the talks, said on Friday [25 September].

"Without real steps to change the legislation infringing upon political, economic and social rights of Russians,

steps to create an atmosphere of good-neighbourly relations between all nationalities, without a firm denunciation of territorial claims to the bordering Russian lands, further talks will be no success," Zotov said.

Among other questions raised by Russia, Zotov named welfare and legal guarantees for army personnel, retired military and their families, fair compensations for Russia's property left by the troops, inadmissibility of unilateral or discriminatory decisions against Russian troops at this stage, as well as Latvia's consent to replace army soldiers who have done their term of service without increasing Russian military presence in Latvia.

Zotov stressed that attempts to speed up "the withdrawal of troops from Latvia will be impossible without such a replacement of privates who load and guard military cargoes and hardware for transportation to Russia."

The talks, which were held in Jurmala between September 22-24, will soon resume in Moscow.

Economics Minister on Cuts in Oil Exports

OW2709173592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1654 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Next year Russia will reduce its oil exports to CIS countries by almost one half, cutting their volume to 35-40 million tons, economics minister Andrey Nechayev told journalists.

Oil exports to Western countries will remain on this year's level and make up 45-50 million tons, he said. Russia intends to maintain the volumes of domestic oil refining on this year's level: 265-270 million tons.

According to the economics ministry, next year the oil output will make up some 340 million tons (against this year's 397 million tons). However, "with the worst development of events", oil extraction might fall to 310-320 million tons.

His government, said A. Nechayev, is not planning to discuss the possibility of lowering export tariffs in the near future. Nevertheless, he said, the tariffs of high-quality oil products might be lowered.

Lack of Funds Freezes Moscow Out of Antarctica

LD2609160992 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] Russia is leaving Antarctica. The Center for Arctic and Antarctic Studies in St. Petersburg says two of the seven Russian stations on the world's sixth continent have stopped operating [the Leningradskaya and Russkaya semi-permanent stations]. The center explains the withdrawal from Antarctica—discovered by Russian explorers—by the lack of finances. Most signatories to the Antarctic treaty, including New Zealand and Latin American countries, have on the contrary increased manifold their spending on Antarctic studies.

Foreign Ministry To Ease Passport Restrictions

OW2609062592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0559 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Andrey Borodin and others from the 25 September "Diplomatic Panorama"; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Consular Service of the Russian Foreign Ministry is reorganizing its activity and will seek to do away with the shortcomings for which it has been justifiably criticized, the Russian Consular Service chief Vasiliy Vinogradov told a news conference on Friday [25 September].

He said that 20 consular offices would be opened in big cities of the Russian Federation shortly, which will make it possible for Russian citizens to get the necessary documents without going to Moscow (such offices have already been opened in Leningrad and Syktyvkar—DP [Diplomatic Panorama]). In 1992-93 Khabarovsk, Chita and Kaliningrad will join the list and the consular office in Nakhodka will be moved to Vladivostok.

Consular service staff are making preparations for the coming into force of a new law on exit and entry as of next year. Relieved of the duty to issue passports and visas for ordinary travellers, they will be able to focus on defending the interests of Russian citizens abroad. Passports and visas will be issued by a federal migration service, already decided to be set up, although "it will take the migration service much time to start functioning normally", the Russian Foreign Ministry official said.

Vinogradov said that the Russian government had decided to increase the financing of the consular service. He said that 300- 400 thousand foreign passports were issued every year. Experts say that an estimated 15-20 million people in Russia would apply for foreign passports, although far from all of them will be able to travel abroad for financial reasons.

The Consular Service chief told journalists that a design concept of the Russian foreign passport had been developed already and that the absence of a state symbol was the main obstacle. Russia's state symbols are expected to be examined by a special parliamentary commission and approved by parliament by the end of the year.

The holder of a foreign passport will have the right to ask foreign embassies for entry visas independently, without getting permission from the Russian authorities first. The passports will be valid for an initial period of five years and upon the expiration of that term can be prolonged. If lost, they can be renewed.

Rutskoy: Gaydar To Stay; Radical Ministers To Go

LD2809103192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0950 GMT 28 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow September 28 TASS—Russian Vice-President Aleksander Rutskoy believes a certain reshuffling of the government is necessary, but is against replacing acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar.

Rutskoy told the international congress of young business and political leaders which opened in Moscow on Monday [28 September] that some radical ministers are to be replaced.

"That is evident. They (ministers) do not realise that their radicalism gives nothing to society", he stressed, but did not name the ministers.

As far as the acting prime minister is concerned, Rutskoy stressed that "at present the policy of a sharp change of the leadership will not yield anything. However, it is necessary to introduce certain changes in the government and in the course of reforms".

The vice-president, who is also a leader of the "Civil Union" bloc called on young politicians to support the movement. "It is not opposition, but a centrist bloc which stands for liberal reforms and not for shock therapy", he said.

Rutskoy admitted that the youth movement practically does not exist in the country. He believes a number of laws is to be adopted to help the young. In particular, the vice-president suggested that all enterprises should be obliged to keep three per cent of their work places vacant for the young and that employers be banned from sacking the young during a year. He also spoke in favour of boosting small and medium-scale ventures organised by the young and said they should be granted long-standing taxation privileges. A national programme is to be worked out to promote the young in the studies of foreign experience in free market economy, he added.

Rutskoy admitted that the interest of the young to politics is next to nothing in Russia and said it is necessary to start thinking about the upbringing of the young political elite.

Trade Ministry Officials Relieved of Posts

PM2809090192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Sep 92 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed "Chronicle" report]

[Text] By decree of the Russian Federation president, S.V. Anisimov has been released from the post of Russian Federation minister of trade and material resources on his transfer to other work.

By order of the Russian Federation president, V.K. Vozhagov has been released from the post of chairman of the Russian Federation Ministry of Trade and Material Resources Committee for Material Resources and the post of Russian Federation first deputy minister of trade and material resources on his transfer to other work.

Constitutional Democrats Party Congress Opens

'Sharp Political Struggle' Reported

LD2809122492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1348 GMT 25 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 25 Sep—The 12th congress of the Constitutional Democrats Party [People's Liberty Party—CDP] has opened at the Russian Federation parliamentary center. From the very start its work is being conducted in conditions of a sharp political struggle between the majority, which agrees with the opposition course of the party's leadership headed by the Central Committee Chairman Mikhail Astafyev, and the minority, which thinks that the cadets should support the president and the government. [passage omitted]

"We have parted in earnest with the political forces which we had whole-heartedly supported," said Mikhail Astafyev in his report to the congress. The CDP, according to him, parted with the Democratic Russia Movement when it saw that "democratic radicalism is leading the country to catastrophe" and it went from supporting the president to demanding his resignation after he signed the Belovezhskaya Pushchya agreements. "The president trampled on the Constitution of the country in which he lived—both the USSR Constitution as well as that of the Russian Federation. From that moment a fresh page began in our relations with him," the cadet leader pointed out. In his view, Boris Yeltsin is now "implementing an antipeople's course which has made the country a puppet of foreign forces." The government's economic policies are also a betrayal of national interests.

Mikhail Astafyev said that it is "not without hesitation" that the CDP, which defends anti-communist views, began cooperating with communists within the framework of the "Russian Unity" parliamentary bloc. Dmitriy Rogozin, deputy chairman of the CDP Central Committee, believes that the alliance with the communists should be restricted exclusively to parliamentary activity, and that the cadets themselves should become a "third force" alternative to both the democrats and the communists.

Aleksandr Kozyrev, chairman of the St. Petersburg organization, spoke at the congress on behalf of the opposition. He said that the policy of the central leadership is effectively being carried out without the agreement of the regions. He called the change in the party's course "unacceptable"—the exit of the CDP from "Demokraticheskaya Rossiya," the move over to opposing the

president and the government, and "the contacts with hangers-on from the old regime."

"The party has found itself at the forefront of the forces attempting to stop the process of reforms instead of supporting them," he said. However, it is unlikely that the opponents of Mikhail Astafyev will be successful in gaining victory at the congress. They make up less than a quarter of the 65 delegates. Aleksandr Kozyrev told the ITAR-TASS correspondent that the opposition's viewpoint is supported by the entire St. Petersburg organization of the party, a part of the Moscow organization, and a part of the Perm organization. If the opposition line is defeated, it is possible that the St. Petersburg organization will discuss the question of leaving the party, he said.

Insist Government Must Resign

LD2609203192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1857 GMT 26 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ludmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow September 26 TASS—The Russian Constitutional Democrats at their congress on Saturday [26 September] demanded that Yeltsin government resigns immediately.

The party proclaimed it will strive to reach the goal by constitutional methods. After the goal is achieved, the party will form a government of national unity, Constitutional Democrats wrote in their resolution. The resolution supports the idea of convening the Constitutional Assembly which was elected according to the 1917 law. The assembly will solve the question on the form of government and determine the status of (Soviet) territories.

The congress also adopted a resolution "on the main principles of economic policy," which envisages stabilization of economy and gradual development of the market.

Democratic Russia Movement Holds Plenum

Supports Government Reforms

LD2609153992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1451 GMT 26 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Alexandrovka]

[Text] Moscow September 26 TASS—The "Democratic Russia" Movement's plenum of the council of representatives, opening today in the parliamentary centre of the Russian Federation, has on its agenda two main items: an evaluation of the pace of reforms, and also discussions on the preparations for the referendum on the question of the private ownership of land.

The "Democratic Russia" movement continues to remain one of a few political forces which as a whole supports the president and the government's policy. Out of 14 factions in the Supreme Soviet only two—"Radical Democrats" and "Democratic Russia"—"fully support the reform policy," Sergey Yusenkov, people's deputy, said during the plenum.

It is true that the most radical part of this radical, but heterogenous movement demands to end "to prop up" the government in everything and even threatens to join the opposition. However, such views, as shown during the course of the plenum, are shared by a minority in the council of representatives. The majority spoke in favour of continuing support to the government policy, particularly, the privatization programme and measures to stabilize the financial system.

The Russian Federation Republican Party representative, People's Deputy Pyotr Philippov said that the "Democratic Russia" should put forward a number of simple and understandable by the people slogans. Firstly, it should come forward against inflation. "We must show that the price-rise is caused by the policy demanded by "generals" from the industry," he said. Besides that, according to him, it must support in the government only those who favour cuts in the government's expenditure. All reform supporters can also rally behind holding a referendum on the question of land.

The Civil Union (CU) block's political and economic stand was subjected to particularly sharp criticism during the plenum, which, to all appearances, in which the "Democratic Russia" sees a dangerous adversory and a formidable force, capable of influencing the president. If the "Democratic Russia" does not take a more aggressive stand and does not come forward with popular slogans, the Civil Union will ease out the "Democratic Russia" from the political arena and deprive it of the people's support, Pyotr Philippov warned. He named the block's economic programme as "a stand of stealthy protectionism of the state ownership".

Participants of the plenum took the political statement as a basis, in which the president and the government are upbraided for often taking decisions "under pressure of the deputy and the industry lobbies and representatives of organizations forming a part of the civil union". It concerns, in the first place, privatization. These forces, the movement considers, supports "the Chinese version" of reforms and their step-by-step introduction which actually is continuation of the pre-August policy of the Soviet Union's leadership. The "Democratic Russia" is for a more decisive and consistent reforms than what now are being conducted by the government and the president, and will with this aim put pressure on them. However, if opponents of reforms will pressurise the leadership, the "Democratic Russia" movement is prepared to take it under its protection, the statement said.

Urges Referendum on Property

OW2709173192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1653 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The council of representatives of the Democratic Russia movement held a plenary session in Moscow Saturday [26 September] evening. It decided to support the call of its St. Petersburg branch for collecting signatures in favor of a referendum on private property throughout Russia. The question to be answered in the referendum is this: "Do you agree that Russia's Constitution should stipulate the right to own land, that is the right of every citizen of the Russian Federation to own, use and dispose of land".

According to the Democratic Russia cochairman Lev Ponomarev, the plenary session took an "extremely difficult decision". If 1 million signatures required for launching a referendum fail to be collected, "the conservatives will get a vast advantage at the next congress of people's deputies", he told IF [INTERFAX]'s correspondent Yevgeniy Terekhov. To promote the call for referendum, L. Ponomarev said, "it's extremely important to have top-level officials on its side". "If President Yeltsin speaks in favor of referendum, our chances will improve noticeably", he said.

The session denied support to the call of a "not numerous faction" for challenging the government's economic policy. The majority is firmly in favor of backing Gaydar, said L. Ponomarev.

The plenary session decided that Democratic Russia will hold its 3rd congress in Moscow on December 12-13. The forum's agenda will be considered by the next plenary session to be held in late November.

Chubays Opposes Enterprise Credit Program

OW2609202192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1916 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Anatoliy Chubays, a deputy premier and chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Properties, said the prevention of an economic collapse was one of the Russian Government's most important achievements. "Famine and lack of heating were not imaginary dangers last winter," he said today at a plenary meeting of the Council of Representatives of the Democratic Russia movement.

According to Chubays, the fiscal system has been saved from destruction, which eliminated the danger of Russia's economic and political disintegration but a high price had to be paid for it, a fall in the living standards aggravated by the government's several serious mistakes.

Financial problems are still the most serious today, Chubays said. The situation has become fairly alarming during the past few weeks. Unless banned, the crediting of enterprises, will lead to hyperinflation. Chubays described the crediting of enterprises in other republics as totally unacceptable.

He said the program of privatization by has caused "fierce resistance" on the part of the "champions of the Stalinist communist system" and an intense struggle in the Supreme Soviet, since the program's implementation "will make the reform irreversible." President Boris Yeltsin repeated yesterday that vouchers should be issued to the population within the period scheduled for this.

Chubays said the Moscow city administration will take "tough measures" against those who have still failed to pay for the shops they privatized at the residual cost. The shops will probably confiscated and sold by auction.

He said he firmly opposed the rapid raising of energy prices to the world level. "Too much haste in this matter may ruin 40 to 50 percent of industrial enterprises," he said. He described as a mistake his committee's decision on the privatization of a large number of enterprises in the power industry, since "practice has shown that, although such enterprises should be privatized, this should be done gradually."

Chubays Against Freeing Fuel Prices

OW2809014492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1641 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking at a Democratic Russia plenum in Moscow, Russian Vice Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays, in charge of the nation's privatization program, rejected the idea of rapidly bringing fuel prices up to prices on the world market.

"This could destroy 40-50

of the manufacturing firms," Chubays said. Chubays said the Committee on State Property's (headed by Chubays) decision to privatize most of the firms in the electric energy complex was a mistake and "practise has shown that these firms must be privatized, but this must be done gradually."

Bank, Government Disagree on Credit Policy

OW2609000292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1913 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The main problems in relations between the Central Bank of Russia [CBR] and the Russian Government remain the volume of credit issued by the bank and its policies regarding the calculation of debts of Russian enterprises and inter-state accounting between the Russian Federation and other republics of the former USSR.

The government holds that the CBR's recent sharp increase in issued credit was directed at supporting unprofitable enterprises.

According to the CBR's own data, on 14 September, the bank had issued a total of 1.386 trillion rubles in credits, only 6% (78 billion rubles) of which was voluntarily given to commercial banks. The remaining credits were issued according to the decisions of the government and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Russia.

The data of the CBR suggest that as of the beginning of September, the government owes the central bank 1.284 trillion rubles, of which 822.5 billion rubles (64%) were earmarked by the CBR for the payment of Russia's state budget deficit. In the last three months, the government's debt has grown 2.6 times larger.

"The main reason for the 'swelling' of the money turnover," CBR deputy chairman Aleksandr Khandruyev told INTERFAX, "is the actions of the government." Because of the fall in production, tax revenues have dropped sharply, and therefore, warned Khandruyev, "independent of the desires of the government, its expenditures will lead to growth of the deficit." A representative of the CBR announced that the government's attempts to establish control over the bank were "illegal" and "contradicted the Law on the Central Bank of Russia."

Government experts maintain for their part that after inter-state and intra-Russian accounting, a mass of money totalling 500 billion to 1 trillion rubles will have "landed" on the economy of Russia. In their opinion, Russia also subsidizes the other countries of the CIS, and the volume of these subsidies may reach 300 billion rubles. The government considers the financing of a cancellation of mutual debts between enterprises a serious error in the policy of the Central Bank. Experts say that once the enterprises have had their debts forgiven and have received "cheap credits," they will dump them onto the market, thereby increasing the total money mass.

Nechayev on Credit, Tax Cuts, Defense Curbs

OW2809013092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1643 GMT 27 Sep 92

[From the "Interfax Business Report"; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a conference of social committees to support Russian reforms in Moscow Sunday [27 September] Russian Minister of Economics Andrey Nechayev said that the government and the Central Bank of Russia reached a compromise, setting the limit on credit emissions to finance Russian firms' current assets at 500 bn [billion] rubles. "Although the government approved a substantial increase in credit emissions, it stopped short of the 1 to 1.5 trn [trillion] rubles requested by the military industrial complex, the Ministry of Industry and the Central Bank," Nechayev said in an interview with "IF" [INTERFAX].

INCREASED CREDIT EMISSIONS SPURRED DROP IN PRODUCTION

The minister of economics said that unchecked financing by the Central Bank caused a drop in production, which hit 20% in September. This in turn caused Russians to "run from the ruble," sending the ruble soaring quickly down against the dollar on the nation's currency exchanges.

Nechayev said the price index grew 3-5% a week in September, however, non-payments decreased from 3.2 to 0.6 bn rubles this month.

Nechayev believes the government will be able to keep the budget deficit within the limits set by the International Monetary Fund. However, the economics minister said that this will depend largely on "the oil excise tax, from which the government plans to bring in nearly 100 bn rubles." To avoid a further production lag and a financial crash in the nation, the government proposes the following:

RUSSIA TO INSTITUTE FEDERAL PROGRAM OF STRUCTURED POLICY

The government plans to discuss a federal program of structural policy for 1993 at its session October 1st.

The minister of economics named three priority areas: the normalization of the fuel and energy complex, solving the nation's food problems, and creating a modern market infrastructure.

GOVERNMENT TO CANCEL TAX ON INVESTMENTS AND REVIEW EXPORT TARIFFS

Nechayev is concerned over the lack of investment resources, and said a stringent financial policy practically rules out investments from budget funds, Russians have no resources to invest, and foreign investors "just aren't coming" to Russia. Thus, the government is relying heavily on Russian business capital, estimated at 1.5 trn rubles. The government plans to suggest that the Central Bank permit the use of commercial banks' reserve deductions (the current reserve rate is 20%) for long-term loans for investment projects. In addition, Nechayev said the tax on firms' profits used for investments may be repealed. Nechayev said this would stop the flow of capital from the nation, an estimated $1 bn.

Nechayev added that several export tariffs will be reconsidered soon, mainly those on highly refined chemical products.

RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEES TO BEGIN WORK

Nechayev said that a "network of reorganizing committees" will soon begin work to reorganize, re-profile, and

manage bankrupt firms, and will work with commercial banks as well. Nechayev said the committee will be based on Goskomimuschestvo and the Ministry of Finance. A central committee will be formed within the Ministry of Economics to address major manufacturing firms; the committee will most likely be headed by Aleksandr Shumeyko.

DEFENSE SPENDING LIMITED TO 500 BN RUBLES

The Russian minister of economics also said that the government plans big cuts in defense production, trimming military orders 68% in next year's budget. Nechayev said the government limited defense spending to 500 bn rubles and will allocate just 170 to 200 bn rubles to weapons purchases; representatives from the military industrial complex and the Ministry of Industry insisted that military spending be set at 1.5 trn rubles, with state orders to defense firms at 270 bn rubles. Orders will be reduced at all Russia's military firms. However, "to maintain the military and technical potential" of military industrial firms, the purchase of certain types of military technology and allocations for military research and development will be increased 10%.

Industrialists, Entrepreneurs Make Economic Plan

Issue Demands to Government

OW2509184692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1812 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak, representatives of the city's Association of Industrial Enterprises, the Russian Industrial Union Chairman, and businessman Arkadiy Volskiy passed a statement at a September 25 meeting demanding that the government and President of Russia change the composition of executive cadres, normalize the banking system and allow privatization checks to be used in the purchase of land.

Volsky said at the meeting that "the low-point in production decline will come in November". "The government," he said "which chose the path of auctioning and privatization and accepted the terms of the International Monetary Fund, is to a great extend guilty" in the worsening economic situation".

Volskiy believes the most effective reform methods are those of the Chinese, in which all economic processes are under strict governmental control. He also advocated "the creation of a Union according to the scheme proposed by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev".

He added that "the directorates of industrial enterprises of former Soviet republics intends to present its presidents with ultimatums in order to force them to place the economy under strict control. The directorates intend to organize strikes if this step is not taken".

Plan To Be Submitted to Yeltsin

OW2609202692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1917 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs has devised its own program for alleviating the country's economic crisis. The program will be presented in ten days to Russian president Boris Yeltsin. The head of the group, Arkadiy Volskiy, made the announcement at a Saturday [26 September] meeting with economic leaders in St. Petersburg. Volskiy noted that the suggested program envisions "a government-regulated transition to the market." According to Volskiy, "the pendulum of economic life has still not settled to its lowest point, after which things will begin to improve." He expects that the toughest times will be at the end of October and the beginning of November. The Union of Entrepreneurs, noted Volskiy, has come out against the resignation of the Gaydar administration, and believes that a compromise must be sought with the opposition.

Volskiy criticized the government for its "total adherence" to every demand made by the IMF; for its "excommunication" of such "dedicated marketeers" as Viktor Pyetrakov, Stanislav Shatalin, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Oleg Bogomolov; and for its adherence to a course of reform disadvantageous to enterprises and labor collectives. Volskiy believes that Russia needs its own unique economic system; he is impressed by the Chinese method of transition to the market: the preservation of strong government with the simultaneous development of the private sector.

Volskiy Outlines 13-Point Program

LD2709093692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1330 GMT 26 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Fomicheva]

[Text] St. Petersburg 26 Sep—Arkadiy Volskiy, the president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs and leader of the Civic Union, and some of his supporters have drawn up a program to save the Russian economy from its crisis. Below are the most important of the thirteen tenets of the program, which Volskiy showed to ITAR-TASS here in St. Petersburg.

"Russia needs to move from a command to a free-market economy not for the sake of the market per se but so that the market can help rebuild a poor Russia where nobody is rich into a rich Russia where nobody is poor. Moreover, the reforms should be put into effect with the minimum cost to society." "Urgent adjustments to the reforms" are needed to save the economy from disintegrating. "Reconstruction of the economic reform should be based on these two fundamental principles: movement of the center of gravity down to the level of the actual producer, and a strictly differentiated approach to

developing the state and non-state sectors of the economy." The program envisages what it calls "a twin-sector model" for the interim period: "two sectors in the economy—two economic and industrial policies." "The 'green light' must be given to form an entrepreneurial infrastructure outside the state sector, with the state providing concessions and support." On the other hand, "state regulation of economic development must be reinstated, with a smooth transition to self-regulation in the market." "The state sector's strategic goal is to separate the state financial system from that of enterprises. If the state is to be responsible, as previously, for the debts of enterprises, then it will be virtually impossible to overcome inflation and achieve the desired results of economic reform." To escape the structural crisis, "a detailed inventory of all fixed assets in Russia must be made" as a matter of urgency, and "a new way of managing state assets created. A program of closures of inefficient producers should be accompanied by regional programs to create new jobs, and also by a social-welfare system and a mechanism for bankruptcy." "The key issue of the reform is privatization, which means moving the principal feature from the central to the local level. An individual approach should lie at the heart of this privatization." Special regulation of enterprises with monopoly status, and "tough penalties for cutting output and raising prices without good reason," is proposed to demonopolize industry.

Arkadiy Volskiy believes that "privatization vouchers could turn out to be a great deception of the working people unless some additional measures are taken: extending the whole process over one or two years, broadening the range of uses to which vouchers can be put, and establishing a way in which the state will redeem them when they expire." "Monetary and financial policy should accomplish today's principal aim: to avert hyperinflation." As one of its measures to beat the investment crisis, Volskiy's program proposes that the state switch to a strictly selective system of financing. "There have to be incentives for more capital projects ensuring industrial expansion." During a transitional period, the program envisages state management of science and technology. Also, Arkadiy Volskiy and his experts are convinced that "a single economic space throughout the CIS is essential if the Russian economy is to survive."

Bank Official Wants IMF To Raise Credit Ceiling

LD2509190092 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1804 GMT 25 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Din Inamov]

[Text] Moscow September 25 TASS—"Without a firm currency and stable monetary-credit system the republic will not be able to carry out economic reforms and enter the market," Arnold Voylukov, deputy chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, said on Friday [25 September]. Addressing a news conference at the bank headquarters in Moscow, Voylukov said that transition to a market-oriented economy will take a long time and tremendous efforts. The strategic aim can be achieved only through constant manoeuvring and prompt changes in tactics and methods of programme implementation, he added.

Voylukov expressed concern about the growing budget deficit in Russia. He said the bank can earmark 950 billion roubles in 1992 to cover the budget deficit, adding that the amount of credit investments in the national economy will depend on decisions and obligations to the International Monetary Fund signed by Russia and its Central Bank. He believes they need some changes, including to raise the ceiling of credit emission.

Not More Than 3% of GNP To Be Paid on Debt

OW2709175492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1701 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia intends to "as soon as possible" reach an agreement with countries-creditors on delaying of its foreign debt, the Russian Minster for Foreign Economic Relations, Petr Aven told "IF" [INTERFAX] on his arrival on Saturday [26 September] to Moscow from Washington after negotiations with the International Monetary Fund and Paris Club. According to Aven, the conclusion of an agreement is being postponed as the IMF and Russia cannot coordinate the prognosis for Russia's payment balance for 1993. The minister put forward a supposition that this will be accomplished "approximately by October 10". After that Russia will officially submit its proposals to the Paris Club.

The Minister said that the Paris club is expected to hold a special session on the foreign debt of the former USSR scheduled for the mid of October. The countries-members of the club agreed not to demand the payment of debt though the the three months delay expires on September 30.

Aven believes that Russia will be able to pay not more that 2-3% of its GNP but the countries-creditors demand it be increased to 5-7%. According to Aven, Russia has lost about $15 billion over the last four years due to the slump in oil prices. Besides the budget deficit has been reduced from 20% in the previous year to 5% in the current year.

Foreign Trade Said 'Disastrous'

LD2709204892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Petr Aven, Russian minister of foreign economic relations, said the state of Russia's foreign trade is disastrous. In an interview to a RIA correspondent, he pointed out that first and foremost, this is a result of a slump in oil and gas exports, especially oil. He also indicated that it is important to ameliorate the structure

of exports, by selling abroad competitive finished products. So far there is very little of it, Aven said. We have competitive technologies, not goods, he pointed out, and here interesting trends are opening up for cooperation with Western firms.

Economist Lauds Gaydar Approach to Market

PM2509134992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
11 Sep 92 Morning Edition p3

[Article by Doctor of Economic Sciences Aleksandr Livshits: "Gaydarnomics: The First Approach Failed, But Another Attempt Will Be Made"]

[Text] Now that there has been a change of direction in economic policy and the steepness of the turn is evident, it is time to sum up the preliminary results of the first six months of Gaydarnomics. Moods vary—from childish gloating and soothed scientific and political pride, to deep depression at the untimely end of market reform.

Avoiding extremes, we can make the following assessment: The trajectory was correct, but serious mistakes have been made. For some reason, the government does not wish to acknowledge them, leaving this up to its opponents, who, we must assume, are genuinely grateful to be entrusted with such a task.

On a strategic level, two miscalculations stand out from the rest: the underestimation of current political circumstances and the national peculiarities of Russian economic management. Lenin, who gives primacy to politics, has not been looked at for a long time, and the loyal Leninists who crippled the running of our economy for decades have been forgotten. It could have been foreseen, for example, that, as soon as marketing difficulties arose, the aforementioned socialist producers would show their true worth, not bothering to puzzle over the flexibility of prices and supply. It could have been foreseen that they would take their usual course of action: Agitate parliament, organize an attack on the government, and make the appropriate threats from their offices until they finally got the reaction they wanted from the authorities straightening out the financial situation. As, given the present situation, the payments crisis could not in principle produce the desired results, it would have been better to simply underline the point, demonstrate to the retrogrades what awaited them if they continued in their indifference to demand, and not take the matter to extremes.

The government bears its share of responsibility for the cash crisis and the totally unnecessary politicization of a simple technical problem. Having gathered momentum literally in a void, the tornado of crisis has swept through all our boundless spaces, carrying off a substantial proportion of the center's authority. On the other hand, local leaders' standing has shot up, as they have chosen the right time to fuel the flames of popular discontent with primitive money substitutes. They have done well, of course, although it means that the money crisis has made the regions realize that they can do without Moscow's rubles if need be....

There has been an unforgiveable delay with the introduction of a program to support domestic enterprise. In the last six months, we have seen an indifferent attitude to the investment process, calm contemplation of its grinding to a halt, and reluctance to do anything to create a new infrastructure of economic development. The government has made gross errors with regard to the timescale and methods of eliminating the budget deficit, making promises it knows it cannot keep. It has miscalculated regarding the nature of the slump in output: The slump has been general rather than structural. How could it allow enterprises selling people food, industrial goods, and services in a poor country to go to the wall? We are unlikely to find a convincing answer to this question. Those responsible for starting real market reform should have shown greater persistency in a timely solution to the problem of bankruptcy procedures. They should have carried the matter to its conclusion and played straight with parliament, as they say.

A serious amendment to the political course has not only been demanded by objective circumstances. The time has come to rectify the omissions of those who have been laying this course. The seriousness of the changes makes us wonder why they were in such a hurry to free prices and take other market measures if they are now slamming on the brakes and changing direction. Hit unprecedentedly hard by prices, have Russians' ordeals been in vain?

I am sure that is not the case. Despite numerous snags, Gaydarnomics have produced considerable positive results.

The present Russian Government differs favorably from previous governments, primarily because it has set out its political priorities correctly. Having inherited a tangled knot of problems, it has tugged at the money thread and launched operations to save the ruble. Its choice cannot be faulted: If it had done otherwise, Russia could have expected a future where barter held undivided sway, state finances collapsed, and the regions slipped back to subsistence farming and the exchange of surplus, which would probably have led to the rapid breakup of the country. Because an economy where money does not work can only be handled by force, if the appalling economic situation at the end of last year had continued for several more months, there would have been no choice other than to immediately return to a command-distribution system. Any honest professional, even one thoroughly in support of a market economy, would have had to admit that there was no other path to salvation. By rising to the defense of our national currency, the government has not only shown real patriotism, it has also helped to continue democratic reforms.

The monetary and budgetary restrictions of the first months of Gaydarnomics have restored the ruble as a

means of payment, reduced direct product exchange, and, most important of all, removed hyperinflation. They could not fail to affect price dynamics. In January through May this year, thanks to joint efforts by the government and the Central Bank of Russia, the rate of growth in the money supply was kept within 9-14 percent per month. This same period saw a rapid drop in the level of open inflation: From 245 percent in January to 12 percent in May. Traces of this restrictive policy can still be seen: The food price index reached 4 percent in July and 11 percent in August. This is largely thanks to those now labelled as orthodox monetarists, accused of taking a doctrinaire attitude and devastating output, and so forth.

But is it fair? Although the government gives much cause for reproach, there is absolutely no need to strike it a swinging blow and indiscriminately criticize even its achievements. The second profession (after economists) may ask those who have done so: Where, or in what country has it been possible to control inflation in any other way, that is, without resorting to financial restrictions painful to the economy? The government has made mistakes while striving to achieve this, but it has nevertheless been moving in the right direction. There is also no great tragedy in the fact that it has now had to forgo some of its anti-inflation principles. No one has yet been able to conquer inflation in a brief skirmish. There was no reason to expect a world record from Gaydar's team. Its approach has certainly failed and it has had to throw in the towel. On the other hand, the government has tested its strength and, I am sure, will enter the ring again after some careful preparation.

Although the consumer market has become extraordinarily expensive since prices were freed, goods have begun to gradually appear. Here, the consumer driven mad by high prices will probably utter a grunt of resentment, evidently forgetting the previously empty trade outlets, the humiliation of ration cards, and much more. Let us go back to December 1991, however, taking as our example the sausage, so loved by our people. The inhabitants of major industrial centers like Nizhniy Tagil, Tula, Podolsk, and Vladimir never saw sausage at all. The longed-for product sometimes appeared briefly in St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk, and Yekaterinburg, attracting lengthy lines. The breakthrough came in March and April, and by the middle of August the problem was no longer finding sausage but earning the money to pay for it.

The government has made efforts to ensure that producers really appreciate the full complexity of the marketing problem. It has created the preconditions for real financial recovery of the economy, judicious market selection regulated by the state, and the rejection of chronically unprofitable enterprises. The fact that the realization of this undertaking has proved to be ill-timed as a whole does not mean it is wrong. It will have to go ahead sooner or later. Only then will real structural changes to production become possible. The government has tried to safeguard the financial side of the matter, albeit none too vigorously.

Gaydar's team is often accused of making political moves in the wrong order—in particular, of freeing prices before carrying out extensive privatization and demonopolizing the economy. From the point of view of world economic theory, these accusations are justified. But in the real economy with which it has had to deal, there was no other choice. The overwhelming commodity shortages at the end of 1991 would have meant the end of all reform, regardless of privatization or demonopolization. Even now, with relatively free prices and marked changes in economic behavior, production investments look extremely risky, and those who do venture to invest can only be seen as heroes of Russian business. It is doubtful whether the standard 1991 Soviet producer would have hankered after state property and invested money in it, knowing that prices would be controlled by some state bureaucrat. Freeing prices has paved the way for radically reforming ownership and overcoming monopolies.

Serious changes in economic behavior are taking place under the influence of Gaydarnomics. Producers have become far more aware of demand, think about why they manufacture their goods, are learning to keep their own books, and are increasingly guided by market criteria. We no longer hear the famous words, "I look after the tonnes and the authorities pay me," as often as we did before. The body of directors is becoming differentiated and losing its former homogeneity. Managers of large joint-stock enterprises with their own share of property and leaders in the state sector who have been able to join in the market reforms are strengthening their positions. All this is gratifying.

Consumers' behavior is also taking on distinct market outlines. The very nature of the economic problems troubling people is changing. A year ago, they were worried about how much they would get on their ration cards, how they could keep their place in the queue for furniture, and whether they would get the long-awaited wage increase promised by a kind government five years before. Now they are agitated about price rises, where they should place their savings, and looming unemployment. But these are precisely the concerns of citizens of any other country, even the most developed. We are gradually becoming like others and getting rid of the absurd uniqueness engendered by the long communist experiment on people. Admittedly, at the moment we are only catching up in terms of the problems—certainly not in terms of achievements.

A fundamentally important point is that, while we are drawing closer to a market economy, our economic behavior is retaining its specific national features. There is no point lumping them all together under the term "Soviet mentality." That would be both offensive and incorrect. Our economic behavior is too Soviet in form and too Russian in nature. Only a government that

manages to take full account of this has the right to claim the people's real confidence, without which no policy can be effective. The present government has not been overly successful in this, to put it mildly.

We must not forget that Gaydarnomics have made it possible for us to join the IMF and other international economic organizations and gain access to commodity, credit, and investment markets. Starting literally from scratch, the government has managed to set up a federal employment service with its own network in all regions of the country in a timely manner. It wants to meet unemployment properly and soften its initial blows.

Before the government launched its market reforms, it was impossible to know what exactly our economy represented, how great the disproportions between different sectors and regions actually were, how much price energy had built up in the cauldron of suppressed inflation, and so forth. If, for example, everyone knew that a loaf of bread could not be sold at the giveaway price of 13 kopeks, no one could say what its real, market price should be. There would not have been anyone in the international scientific community capable of calculating this. The answer lay in practice, in the market. Gaydarnomics have illuminated the true but sorry state of affairs. Now we can make forecasts, move away from false economic planning toward honest economic programming, and build a new system of management.

Is the above enough to respect a government carrying out far-reaching reforms in an economy in the grip of a serious crisis? I think it certainly is. Its achievements so far have entered the fabric of the Russian economic organism. And there they will stay, regardless of changes in the political climate.

[Biographical footnote] Aleksandr Yakovlevich Livshits was born in 1946. He is an economist and mathematician by education. He has spent many years teaching, was head of department at the Moscow Machine-Tool Institute, and is a professor at the Moscow State University. He is a doctor of economic sciences. He is also the author of one of the first Russian textbooks on the theory of the market economy.

Authorities Said Ready for Unemployment Jump

PM2809114192 Moscow NEW TIMES in English No. 36, Sep 92 pp 20-21

[Viktor Sidenko article under the "Cover Story" rubric: "Will Reforms Withstand Unemployment?"—based on materials from the Working Center of Economic Reform under the Russian Federation Government]

[Text] The prospect is for this young but quickly growing child of the market economy to cause serious problems for the Russian Government as early as this year. However, government experts believe they still have enough time to cope with this headache. According to expert estimates, the number of those employed in the national economy in 1992 will reduce from 73.6 to 72 million people as compared to 1991. The reasons for this are the production slump, structural changes in the economy and the intensification of labour. The share of those employed in the state-run sector of the Russian economy will fall from 76.9 percent in 1991 to 69.4 percent in 1992 (or from 56.6 million people in 1991 to 50 million in 1992). The most intense reduction is expected by the end of 1992, when a large-scale privatization of state-run enterprises starts. True, this reduction will be partially compensated by a growth in the number of those employed in the private sector, yet this won't make the problem less painful. The spectre of an abrupt production slump in Russia is making itself increasingly evident, although its appearance in late 1991 and in early 1992, when the economic processes taking place stimulated the reduction in jobs, didn't lead to mass panic. However, already today one third of Russia's population fear losing their jobs. These fears are far from unfounded. The number of those finding themselves on the sacking lists grows. For many the spectre of unemployment has become a living reality.

The statistics don't spare our feelings: the dominant group of unemployed are women (70 percent) and persons with diplomas from higher educational institutions (58 percent). Over one third of the registered unemployed are parents of small children. Almost every sixth unemployed person is under 22.

The demand for labour power, as evaluated by the number of requests from enterprises and organizations, still considerably exceeds the number of those who want to find a job through the state employment service. The demand eight times exceeded supply in November and December of 1991, and two times in February 1992. In this context, unemployment can, for the time being, be regarded as mostly structural and (or) regional. True, a key issue here is the population's poor awareness of these services' activities as well as their low efficiency.

However, the relatively carefree period of these services' existence is nearing its end. According to forecasts by experts, the total labour market may reach the impressive figure of 13 million by the end of this year, and this is serious enough. The military-industrial complex alone is expected to lay off one million workers. It is expected the 7 million people will find employment on their own. About 6.3 million people will be registered by state employment services as those lookng for job. Out of this number, about 2.5 million people will find vacant working places with their help, while 3.8 million will remain unemployed for some time. 1.6 million of them will be eligible to master a new profession in the system of vocational reeducation and training, while the other 2.2 million will be given unemployment allowances. The wave in unemployment will, according to estimates by experts, occur in the late 1992.

Unemployment Chooses Its Victims

Unemployment will turn out to be most severe to those employed in mining and heavy industries working for

the domestic market and in the military-industrial complex. Naturally, regions with a concentration of these industries' enterprises will be affected most (the Urals and the East Siberian Economic regions, some regions of West Siberia and the Far East, Karelia, Tula and Rostov regions and the Udmurt republic.)

According to experts, big problems in the sphere of employment will arise in industrially underdeveloped regions (the Kalmyk republic, Tuva, Kurgan and Amur regions). It's precisely in these areas that the danger of social explosions is the greatest. Nevertheless, the government aid programme responsible for creating new jobs in the service sector and for stimulating entrepreneurship has yet to make good. The experts believe that the prognosticated deterioration in interethnic relations within the Russian Federation, as well as immigration of the Russian-speaking population from other countries of the former USSR, will hardly promote social stability in these regions. This migration is potentially a national calamity, because accommodation of one resettler and his family costs about 500 thousand rubles.

Cushioning the Blow...

The Russian authorities are preparing to meet the oncoming threat of precipitous unemployment fully armed, although the magnitude of the problem leaving no room for expecting an easy victory. There are plans in the works to change the policy of granting unemployment allowances so as to stimulate a search for jobs.

An active policy for handling unemployment is intended. The plan is to finance programmes for the reeducation of the unemployed along with developing ways to stimulate entrepreneurship. Labour-consuming social projects will be resorted to as the last remedy.

A special State Fund for Employment has been created to finance activities in this sphere. The federal part of its financial resources will be spent mainly on general needs and on forming a reserve for financial aid to regions suffering from mass unemployment and deficient employment funds. A territorial branch of the Fund will issue aid only to targetted localities. The distribution of finances between the federal and the territorial parts of the Fund is expected to be established at the ration 20 to 80.

24 billion rubles will be allocated to the State Fund for Employment in 1992. To compare: In 1991 the expenditures on social support for the unemployed were only 4.6 billion rubles. In 1992 about 2 thousand million rubles will be invested into the development of employment services, including the introduction of advanced technology. Thus far these are only projects. If they are implemented consistently and in time, the impending tidal wave of unemployment may be stopped.

Details of Yeltsin Judicial Structure Experiment

OW2609035992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 25 Sep 92

[From "Presidential Bulletin" prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin, and edited by Boris Grishchenko; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed an authorization giving the go-ahead for the experimental implementation of a number of new provisions for judicial structuring. The document indicated that the aim of the experiment was to round off the first stage of judicial reforms.

An INTERFAX [IF] reporter was informed by the Russian Ministry of Justice that the experiment was designed to introduce Institutes for Justices of the Peace and collegia of jurors in two of the republic's regions, probably the Vladimir and Ivanovo regions.

IF Note: The Institute of Justices of the Peace existed in Russia during Tsarist times. It prosecuted petty criminals by authorized criminal and civil legislative procedure.

Ministry of Justice experts believe that the Justices of the Peace would help to ease the heavy work-load of the courts due to the immense amount of petty offenses taking place.

The place of people's assessors in ordinary courts will be taken by the collegia of jurors (two for each case). They will deal with major offenses, including those which carry the death penalty.

The Russian Ministry of Justice made special mention of the fact that the implementation of the experiment would be possible only after the Supreme Soviet had made appropriate amendments to the criminal code.

The president's authorization establishes the legal base for the practical application of the experiment. The deadline of November 15th set by the president for the completion of the preparations of experiment will be used to review legal acts, finding premises, defining the qualifying criteria for the Justices of the Peace and resolving any other technical matters.

Supreme Soviet

Supreme Soviet Concludes Session in Moscow

Issues Statement on Abkhazia

LD2509215592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1828 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow September 25 TASS—The closed-door meeting of the Russian Supreme Soviet. [sentence as received]

The evening closed-door meeting of the Russian Supreme Soviet discussed the situation in the Northern Caucasus in connection with Abkhazian developments. A statement to the effect says the following:

"The situation in Abkhazia provokes grave concern of the Russian Federation. The introduction of armed units of the Georgian State Council in Abkhazia has lead to the appearance of a military conflict and claimed human lives.

The agreements reached at the Moscow summit on September 3, 1992, began the peaceful and civilized conflict settlement. However, the cease-fire has not been achieved and the Moscow agreements have not been fully implemented.

"Acts of violence continue in the conflict zone as regards Abkhazian civilians, who include tens of thousands of people with ethnic roots in Russia. The participation of militarized voluntary units formed by national and public movements of some North Caucasian Republics in the conflict that leads to the spreading of violence to the territory of the Russian Federation provokes concern as well.

The Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation:

—denounces the policy of the Georgian leadership, who tries with the use of violence solve complicated problems of inter-ethnic relations, and demands that the government immediately stop combat operations, withdraw armed units from Abkhazian territory and strictly fulfill international covenants on human rights,

—declares the need for further development of Moscow agreements and considers it necessary to immediately hold a meeting of leaders of Russia, Georgia, Abkhazia and North Caucasian Republics, territories and regions in order to solve the major issue—unconditional cease-fire,

—believes that the package of agreements shall include a coordinated withdrawal of Georgian Armed Forces from Abkhazian territory with the simultaneous disarmament, disbandment and withdrawal from Abkhazia of voluntary armed units and groups, as well as the introduction of necessary contingent of peacekeeping forces while ensuring citizen security and functioning of roads and key industrial facilities.

Only on this basis, it will be possible to begin work of legitimate power bodies in Sukhumi, unblock the railway, return the refugees and establish normal life in Abkhazia.

The Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation is ready to serve as a mediator in the solution of these issues.

The session approved the Russian Supreme Soviet resolution "on situation in the Northern Caucasus in connection with Abkhazian developments", which, in particular, recommends the Russian president and the government put forward an initiative to hold a new meeting of the leadership of Russia, Georgia, Abkhazia and North Caucasian republics, territories and regions in order not only to cease fire in Abkhazia, but also ensure the stabilization of the regional situation begun at the Moscow meeting on September 3, 1992.

The resolution provides for the elaboration and fulfillment of a set of measures on protection of interests of the Russian Federation on the state border in the North Caucasian region with the establishment of terms for submitting corresponding proposals to the Supreme Soviet, suspends the passing over to Georgia of armaments, material and ammunition of the Russian Armed Forces, including those on previously concluded contracts, including spares for enterprises producing armaments and ammunition, regulates the rendering of humanitarian assistance to the population in the conflict zone and so on.

Deputies Satisfied With Statement

OW2509183192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1809 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] People's Deputy Viktor Sheinis described a resolution passed Friday [25 September] by Russian parliament on the Caucasus situation in connection with events in Abkhazia as "balanced and calm". He noted, however, in an interview with INTERFAX that amendments proposed by Deputy Baburin forbidding the Russian Government to close trade deals with Georgia before the end of the conflict "fundamentally worsened the document". The document could, he said, "put more aggressive and irresponsible Georgian forces in a serious position".

Russian People's Deputy Sergey Baburin also expressed his satisfaction that parliament passed a statement and resolution on Abkhazia. Responding to an INTERFAX correspondent's question, Baburin said ending the conflict in Abkhazia "does not depend on a resolution, but on a strong political will among the governments of Russia, Georgia and Abkhazia, which, at least in Russia, does not yet exist".

Stepashin Dismissal Request Refused

OW2509164792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1610 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In a closed session Friday [25 September] the Russian parliament refused a request from Sergey Stepashin that he be relieved of his duties as Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Defense and Security.

In an interview with INTERFAX he explained his request in connection with his desire to "focus entirely on work in executive structures". Stepashin was

appointed Chief of the St. Petersburg Security Directorate with the rank of Russian Deputy Security Minister by a presidential decree at the end of last year. At the same time he served as chairman of the parliamentary committee.

Stepashin refused to say what motivated him to send his resignation to parliament at this particular time, explaining only the difficulties of occupying two posts at once. He also emphasized that "parliamentary control over power structures—the Security and Defense Ministries—is very important at this time".

Parliament refused his request with a majority of votes, only 11 voting in dissention, and passed a proposal that he continue to head the parliamentary committee.

According to independent experts, parliament's decision was an attempt to weaken the Security Ministry's leadership, reasoning that Stepashin is considered one of its strongest leaders.

Deputies Discuss Privatization Vouchers

LD2609133992

[Editorial report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1930 GMT on 25 September, in the "At the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Session" program, carries a recorded report on the 25 Supreme Soviet session in which the privatization program is discussed.

Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays takes the floor, and says: "There have been some inaccuracies that I'd like to remove, since we all had the same figures and information. People's Deputy (Kamenin) said that the privatization program is a failure because it has yielded an income during the first half year of only 500 million. That's wrong. Revenues from privatization—take a look at the statistics, they've been published—stood at 10 billion rubles as of 1 August. In August alone they amounted to 40 percent of all privatization revenues so far. So, we can see a significant acceleration in the process, and I think that everything will be all right."

He continues: "The others, all this talk about how the law has to be improved, about giving the reform committee a month, if I'm not mistaken, to come up with new proposals for this, about replacing the law with a decree, about calling a complete halt until the government's program has been endorsed, which if I'm not mistaken was in one of the drafts, there were various options proposed here, and they all have one thing in common: They are not constructive. It is absolutely clear, and I think that even my total opponents will agree with me here, even those of you who flatly reject the whole idea, it is absolutely clear that the people are waiting to receive their vouchers. It's absolutely clear that to cancel them would lead to a storm of public protest."

Chubays concludes: "So those who today call for this unconstructive approach risk being in a situation where events proceed in one direction while their slogans and demands proceed in the opposite direction. I would like to say that I'm convinced that parliament will be able to reach a sensible and constructive decision, as happened with the state privatization program and the amendments to the law on privatization."

Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov takes the floor, and says: "During August and early September I held a whole series of meetings with prominent scholars known to you, with prominent businessmen, bankers, directors of state enterprises, with more businessmen. Ninety-nine percent of them, even scholars that you know and who are on the far left, who were involved in the famous Shatalin and Yavlinskiy programs, do not recommend that the Russian parliament kill these vouchers. They advise against that.

"So we will be making a strategic mistake if we opt to cancel, postpone, kill off these vouchers, or whatever. It would be a political mistake, and short-sighted. We could now set up a commission to properly finalize this document. It needs to be tightened up. I completely agree with those speakers who said that there are clear breaches of the law. Why should we not point this out in the document? There are clear departures from the requirements of the law, and they have to be pointed out. Possibly, those who allowed these breaches should be identified."

Khasbulatov concludes: "But on the whole I call on you not to frame the issue in terms of postponement or cancellation. This would be fatal to parliament. We would have to accept responsibility for all the exceedingly serious consequences that might ensue. Let's not vote on it at all. Let's set up a commission, as I said. It can get down to work and provide us with a single framework. If we have any differences of opinion we can resolve them somehow."

Deputies Fail To Decide on Privatization

OW2809082892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0706 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet at an assembly on Friday [25 September] was unable to come to a conclusion about the program to privatize state property. Two drafts of decrees were drawn up in accordance with the results of debates on the report on the programs' progress by Anatoliy Chubays, chairman of Russia's State Committee to Manage State Property. One of them was prepared by the Committee to the Supreme Soviet on Economic Reforms and Property, the second was prepared by the parliamentary fraction "Smena—New Politics." Upon a recommendation by parliamentary chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, a commission for compromise has been created to prepare a final draft of the decree. The document will be put up for confirmation at the next plenary session of the Supreme Soviet which should take place Tuesday, September 29th.

Congress Planned for 15 Dec

OW2809115692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1124 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As "IF" [INTERFAX] managed to learn, on Monday [28 September] the session of the Russian presidium of the Supreme Soviet discussed a draft resolution of the Russian parliament on the convocation of the next congress of the Russian people's deputies. The draft resolution intends to convene the congress on December 15 in Moscow, the agenda of the congress will include two issues: on realization of economic reform and on draft constitution of Russian Federartion.

Deputies Attack Gaydar at Opening Session

PM2809113592 Moscow in Russian 24 Sep 92 Morning Edition pp 1-2

[Sergey Chugayev report: "Opposition Attempts To Score Points by Attacking Government"]

[Text] Attacks as fierce as those made by deputies on the activity of the Russian Cabinet of Ministers 22 and 23 September at the opening session of the Russian parliament were perhaps the first of their kind since the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies. As was to be expected, the debate was precipitated by Acting Premier Ye. Gaydar's report. The parliamentary opposition comprising the "Russian Unity" bloc demanded the resignation of the cabinet within the first few minutes of the debate.

The actual report delivered by the acting prime minister was extremely successful in the opinion of most observers. Concentrating on specific aspects of government activity, it would seem that Ye. Gaydar gave a fairly coherent presentation of the situation in the country, the reasons why this situation had emerged, and what the cabinet is doing to resolve the problems. The procedure of Ye. Gaydar's reply to deputies' questions also demonstrated that the mutual understanding between parliament and government for which the Supreme Soviet chairman has repeatedly called has to some extent been achieved.

However, the debate on the report, which unfolded during the evening session, showed that the opposition had decided to take a hefty swipe at the government. Following the very first speeches by opposition leaders it became clear that these hard-hitting blows were aimed not so much at the government as at the president. And basically, the demand to convene a congress with the aim of putting to it the fundamental issue of confidence in the government is designed to try to conduct an overall review of the reforms strategy and alter the basic guidelines for contemporary Russian foreign and domestic policy. This was stated fairly openly by Deputy I. Konstantinov.

Thus, nine months after the reforms began to be implemented, a question mark once again hangs over their future. And in this connection a supposition involuntarily arises. In calling for the resignation of the cabinet, the opposition is not putting forward an alternative economic policy or candidates for membership of the government because there is no sense in it doing superfluous work. Its program was formulated 75 years ago and until recently was implemented in real life.

The result of the parliamentary debate clearly showed that the body of deputies currently divides into three basic groups over the reforms issue. The "Russian Unity" bloc stands for the unconditional resignation of the government and the president and the abandonment of reforms. The "Civil Society" group of factions is close to this bloc in terms of its views. A coalition that supports the reforms is ranged on the opposite flank, and here there is no particular unity. Only the "Democratic Russia" faction supports the government and the reforms unconditionally. The "Democratic Center" group of factions occupies a special position, supporting the "Civil Union" movement. Representatives of this group are not in favor of the government resigning, but propose to supplement the cabinet with "Civil Union" candidates and ask that the alternative economic program they are proposing be taken into account, one of the main points in which (completely unacceptable to Ye. Gaydar) involves stimulating consumer demand by pumping out additional money supply.

Thus, by the start of the session's work, the supporters of the reforms were divided in parliament, which cannot be said of their opponents. However, in the event of a future intensification of the struggle, when the fate of the reforms really will be thrown into the scales, we may expect the reformers to consolidate. This consolidation could perfectly well occur just before or during the Congress of People's Deputies that the opposition is insisting on. Most likely, the basis for a consolidation will be a compromise between the government and "Civil Union."

As regards the actual course of the debate, practically no professional assessments were heard. Accusations brought by deputies demanding the government's resignation did not as a rule go much beyond stating the fact that production and living standards have fallen and hinting that Russia's present leadership is handing the country over to Western debt slavery. Clearly, the united opposition is less interested in looking for ways to get out of the crisis than in the chance to strengthen its influence and possibly come to power by exploiting the current difficult situation in Russia. At the same time, all the indications are that the opposition is not troubled by the obvious consequences of a struggle for power in the present situation, which formed the subject of a fairly persuasive warning by Deputy V. Dmitriyev to his colleagues. If the cabinet resigns, he believes, instead of solving the problem of getting out of the crisis, several months will have to be spent on forming a new government. During this period the talks on foreign debt

payments will undoubtedly be wrecked, and Russia will be obliged to pay not $1 billion, which is the intention this year, but 20 times more. This in turn will lead to the halting of imports. The halting of imports will lead to stoppages at many enterprises, a worsening of the economic crisis, the collapse of the economy and finally to Russia's various components fleeing the Federation—the disintegration of Russia.

Council Enhances Legal Status of Antitrust Body

OW2609014692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1614 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The State Committee of the Russian Federation for anti-trust policies and support for new economic structures will from now on be subordinate to the Russian President and parliament. The decision was made by the Supreme Economic Council at the Presidium of the Russian Parliament.

The council decided that together with the committee it would produce an analytical memo for parliament on progress in implementing anti-trust legal acts, limiting monopoly and defending the rights of consumers.

The council decided to endorse Leonid Bochkin, acting chairman of the committee as candidate for the committee chairman.

Parliament Body Says Government Ignores Ecology

LD1809210192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1731 GMT 17 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—The Russian parliament's Committee for Ecological Matters and Rational Use of Resources today charged the Russian Government with the failure to pay proper attention to ecological problems.

The committee pointed out in a statement that a tendency has surfaced to revise approaches to the building of a harmonious system of control over the environmental protection activity in the country.

The committee also stressed that the laws on environmental protection and sanitary and epidemiological safety are not being enforced and ecological rules and standards have yet to be worked out.

The committee said the government was not monitoring the process of rehabilitation of the areas affected by technogenic disasters, including the 1986 Chernobyl blast.

Regional Affairs

Chechens Issue Announcement on Russian Meeting

LD2609121392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] A delegation of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet led by Yuriy Yarov, deputy chairman of the parliament, has visited Groznyy at the invitation of the chairman of the Chechen parliament. We go over to Ruslan Nashkhoyev for details.

[Nashkhoyev] An announcement has been issued by the press center of the Chechen parliament, summing up the results of the working meeting with the delegation leaders, and signed by Yuriy Yarov and by Bek Mezhidov, first deputy chairman of the Chechen parliament. The document says that having discussed the state of relations between the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic, the two parties confirmed their adherence to the protocols of the Dagomys and Moscow meetings. They also stated the need to give a new momentum to the negotiating process and to include additional representatives of executive bodies to deal with the legal side of treaties. Issues relating to the demarcation of state territories of Checheniya and Russia were touched on, as well. It was recommended that the commission to be set up specially to work on this issue should consider international experience, giving preference to the transparent borders option.

Commenting on the joint announcement, Husayn Akhmadov, chairman of the Chechen parliament, said that the meeting in Groznyy was a new step toward a rapprochement in the positions of the two republics. An agreement has been reached to hold the next round of talks in Moscow in mid-October. Issues relating to the recognition of political independence and state sovereignty, as well as the economic area [ekonomicheskoye prostranstvo] of Russia and Checheniya; the social, pricing and customs policy; collective security; and other important issues will be discussed there.

Chechen Government Leader on Talks

OW2609012092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1810 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Chechen Parliament Husayn Akhmadov, appearing Friday [25 September] at a press conference in Groznyy, regarded highly the results of negotiations held recently in the republic with the Russian Supreme Soviet delegation headed by its Deputy Chairman Yuriy Yarov. According to Akhmadov, from the document signed in Groznyy on the issues of state territorial definition between the Chechen Republic and the Russian Federation, it follows that "the Chechen Republic de-facto will be recognized as an independent state."

Akhmadov reported that during a working meeting matters which were not included in the final document were also discussed, such as the lifting of financial, economic, and air blockades on Checheniya, the withdrawal of Russian troops from its borders, and the establishment of combined posts on the borders. He said these matters will be resolved finally on the level of the according ministries and departments of the two countries.

The head of the Chechen parliament noted that an agreement on principle was reached at the negotiations on a new meeting of the parties, which is planned for mid October in Moscow.

Akhmadov reported that the republic's parliament prepared an appeal to the UN which contains a request to send experts to Groznyy to study the social and political situation in Checheniya.

Dudayev Leaves for U.S., Turkey, Jordan, Syria

LD2509222492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Dzhokhar Dudayev, president of the Chechen Republic, left today for Turkey. From there he will go to the United States, and on his way home he will visit Jordan and Syria. The purpose of the visit is not only political but also economic. The Chechen Republic is seeking to attract foreign specialists for development work and for introducing new technology to Checheniya's oil and gas extraction and refining enterprises .

Chechen Russians Appeal to Yeltsin, Khasbulatov

PM2809085592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Sep 92 First Edition p 2

[Abbreviated version of undated letter to President Yeltsin and Supreme Soviet Chairman Khasbulatov from Groznyy oil plant collective under the "Marked 'Urgent!'" rubric: "We Expect Wisdom From Politicians"]

[Text] The collective of Groznyy's plant for producing and selling oil products has sent a letter to B. Yeltsin, R. Khasbulatov, and Chechen Republic leaders in connection with the plight of the Russian-speaking population in the Chechen Republic. The letter was published in the GOLOS CHECHENSKOY RESPUBLIKI [Voice of the Chechen Republic] newspaper. We reprint a slightly abbreviated version of it.

We, the plant's staffers, address the Russian leadership with pain in our hearts and doubts about our future and in order to remind it once again that the Chechen Republic is multi-ethnic. Besides Chechens, Russians comprise over 30 percent of those working and living there and in all there are over 100 nationalities there.

In the very difficult conditions of the period of transition to the market, the severing of production ties, and other adverse economic factors, workers, engineers, and specialists are fulfilling and even overfulfilling their obligations for deliveries of oil products to all regions of Russia and other republics.

However, the economic blockade by the Russian Government and the termination of accounting and financial banking transactions with the Chechen Republic by the Central Bank of Russia has led to the fact that the amount owed to us for the shipment of oil products to consumers has already reached 7 billion rubles [R]. Whereas we have been unable to receive wages and pensioners have been unable to receive pensions during this time.

If it is taken into account that the city's Chechen inhabitants have relatives in villages and that they will somehow manage to survive with the village inhabitants' help, what are the Russians to do? The financial and economic blockade has been augmented by a transport blockade. Trains are not going through Groznyy. Aircraft have also stopped flying. But we all have children, brothers, sisters, parents, and relatives living outside the Chechen Republic. What is to happen in this case?

It turns out that Russia is deliberately making Russians embittered toward itself, although both Yeltsin and Khasbulatov are our elected representatives in the Russian Supreme Soviet. Every such action will rebound like a boomerang on Russians in the Chechen Republic. Do you want to make us hostages to your policies on the ethnic question?

We, workers and employees, are surprised: Can statesmen of such high rank as Yeltsin and Khasbulatov really not find a compromise solution that would facilitate the stabilization of the situation in our republic so that things are all right for everyone in the places where they live: for Russians in the Chechen Republic and Chechens in Russia?

'Thousands' Demonstrate in Karadino-Balkaria

OW2509183692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1810 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Thousands of people are demonstrating in Nalchik, the capitol of Kabardino-Balkaria, in support of Confederation of Caucasian Mountain Peoples President Shanibov.

He was detained September 23 in Nalchik by order of the Russian General Prosecutor's Office.

The Caucasian Confederation sent armed volunteers to Abkhazia from the northern Caucasian republics to participate in military operations against Georgia.

An Interfax correspondent was informed at the Kabardin Congress headquarters that the demonstrators

demand Shanibov's release and the dismissal of Kabardino-Balkaria General Prosecutor Eduard Denisov and the republic's Interior Minister Khachim Shugenov.

According to the headquarters guard, all roads leading out of Nalchik are under blockade by OMON [special purpose militia detachment] units.

They also claim that Shanibov was detained after he was called to talks with Interior Minister Shugenov. He was sent consequently to Moscow, according to the headquarters guard.

Casualties Reported

OW2709174892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1659 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to unofficial information from Nalchik, the capital of Kabardino-Balkaria, fierce clashes occurred between the participants of a demonstration, several thousands in number, and the law enforcement bodies. Several sources which presented their information through the press service of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet insist that a real fighting was going on in the city, in the result of which 3 people were killed and tens of demonstrators were wounded. They mention the name of a 48-year-old woman, a resident of Nalchik, Rita Anikova. The Congress of the Kabardin people reported that about 20 people were wounded when following the imposing of emergency situation OMON [special purpose militia detachment] (riot police) made an attempt to disperse the meeting in support of the leader of the Confederation of the Caucasian mountain peoples Yuriy (Musa) Shanibov who had been arrested recently.

The deputy chairman of the Karardino-Balkarian Supreme Soviet Mukharbi Ulbashev has not confirmed the information on human losses though there are several wounded people. According to Ulbashev, the demonstration which is going on in the city "has unfriendly character".

The press service of the Congress of the Kabardinian people reported that the republic's president Valeriy Kokov had negotiations with their representatives and agreed to all demands. They include the following: an urgent withdrawal of the Russian internal forces from the Kabardino-Balkarian republic, liberation of the CCMP [Confederation of Caucasian Mountain Peoples] president Shanibov, cancellation of the state of emergency. But the vice president of the World Cherkessk Association Yuriy Kalmykov made it clear that the negotiations had been conducted with the representatives of the president but not with him. The demands were presented to the republic's leadership which will prepare a public answer for the participants of the meeting.

During the negotiations the Internal Minister of the Kabardino-Balkarian republic Shovgenov reported that Shanibov who is under arrest in Rostov-na-Donu has been practically freed but some formalities are to be accomplished.

State of Emergency Declared

LD2709073592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0711 GMT 27 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kipkeyev]

[Text] Nalchik, Kabardian-Balkaria, North Caucasus, September 27 TASS—A state of emergency was imposed in Nalchik, the capital of the Kabardian-Balkar Republic, for two months by a decree of the republic's President Valeriy Kokov.

After an unsanctioned meeting on Saturday [26 September] night, supporters of the Congress of the Karardian People (CCP) made an attempt to storm the building of the republican government and the television centre here.

CCP forces made an attack on OMON personnel, seizing one armoured personnel carrier, four motor vehicles, two submachine-guns and pistols. As a result of talks between the authorities and CCP representatives, the hardware was handed back on the night of Saturday to Sunday.

International Affairs

Ministry Assumes Control of Soviet Facilities

LD2709022092 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2100 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] Upon the instruction of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, enterprises, establishments, and organizations of the former USSR Defense Ministry located on the territory of Ukraine have been transferred under the subordination of Ukraine's Defense Ministry. The decision has been adopted in line with the law on enterprises, establishments, and organizations of the union subordination which are located on the territory of Ukraine.

Defense Department Denies Allegiance Ultimatum

LD2609151392 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] The press service of the Ukraine Defense Ministry has annulled yesterday's report from the "Novosti" evening program from the Ostankino TV company which claimed that in the Sevastopol Higher Naval Schools, an ultimatum has allegedly been presented to students which states that whoever does not swear allegiance to the people of Ukraine by the 26 September will be deported. Such an ultimatum is nothing other than a pure and simple lie. The press service has expressed its sympathy with the Ostankino TV company noting that it has once again become a victim of unverified information.

Black Fleet Negotiations Continue With Russia

LD2509134692 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry press center reported that expert groups of the state delegations of Ukraine and the Russian Federation at the negotiations on the Black Sea Fleet continued their work on 23 September on the drafts of concrete agreements with regard to the implementation of the Yalta agreement. The experts examined and discussed the draft of agreements that regulate individual aspects of the operations of the Black Sea Fleet in the transitional period and the principles and procedure for its manning, financing, etc. The state delegations should complete the elaboration of the drafts of these documents by 1 October this year.

Ukraine Participates in Arms Reduction Talks

LD2709155292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] As reported by the information section of the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine, a routine session of the joint consultative group, created to implement the treaty on reducing conventional armed forces in Europe, opened on the 23 September in the Vienna Hofburg Palace. Speaking at the meeting Ambassador Kostenko, head of the Ukrainian delegation at the Vienna negotiations on security and cooperation in Europe, reported in detail about Ukraine's implementation of the provisions of this important military and political treaty, and about the beginning of the destruction and the re-equiping of military hardware for national economic purposes.

Plans to Suspend Trade With Russia Denied

LD2609210292 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Ukraine does not intend to suspend trade relations with Russia despite the fact that Russian enterprises owe Ukrainian enterprises 300 billion rubles. This was stated today by Ukrainian First Deputy Finance Minister Vitaliy Iliyin to the Novyny television and radio agency. Rumors that Ukraine supposedly intends to halt deliveries of goods to Russia do not correspond to reality, he emphasized.

Agreement on Investments Signed With China

LD2609111292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Talks have taken place in Kiev between delegations of the foreign and trade ministries of Ukraine and China. The talks resulted in the initialling of an agreement between the governments of the two countries on the promotion and mutual protection of investments. This agreement will make it possible to enliven bilateral relations and to draw foreign capital into Ukraine's economy. Zhang Zhen, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China in Ukraine, took part in the talks.

Zlenko Meets New Zealand, Others at UN

LD2709101792 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] The Ukrainian delegation continues its work at the 47th UN General Assembly session. Anatoliy Zlenko, the foreign minister, who is heading the delegation, met with Jim Bolger, the prime minister of New Zealand, and with ministers of foreign affairs of Oman, Mongolia, and Palestine.

Anatoliy Zlenko, when meeting with the New Zealand prime minister, discussed in detail the possible expansion of trade relations between the two countries, and in a meeting with Yusuf Bin Al-Alawi 'Abdallah, the foreign minister of the Sultanate of Oman, he discussed prospects for the development of bilateral relations. Preparing for the future visit to Mongolia by President Leonid Kravchuk was the main subject of Anatoliy Zlenko's talk with Tserenpilyn Gombosuren, the Mongolian foreign minister.

Further Talks Noted

LD2609203492 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] A general discussion continues at the 47th session of the UN General Assembly, and parallel to it, in the

lobby of the World Forum, responsible diplomatic work is unfolding. The work schedule of the Ukrainian delegation at the session has become intensive and rapid from the first days. It is headed by Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko. At the meeting with Barbara McDougall, secretary of state for external affairs of Canada, a memorandum on consultations between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of Canada was signed.

During the conversation between the two ministers, a wide range of problems of mutual interest were discussed. Special attention was attached to the question of creating an international scientific and technical center in Ukraine. Anatoliy Zlenko informed Barbara McDougall about the measures taken by the Government of Ukraine to implement UN Security Council resolution 757 on the sanctions regarding Yugoslavia. Zlenko stressed that the verification, carried out by senior state bodies, of the report in the mass media did not confirm the existence of violations of the UN sanctions on the part of Ukraine.

A substantial exchange of opinions took place on the issues of the economic reform in Ukraine as well as the activities of the UN concerning, in particular, the financing of that organization.

The Ukrainian foreign minister also met with the foreign ministers of Sweden, Finland, Jordan, and Spain.

Morozov, French Envoy Discuss Cooperation

LD2609152592 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] A meeting of Ukraine Defense Minister Morozov, French envoy Hugues Pernet, and French military attache Muanar has taken place. During the meeting, directions for cooperation between the military departments of both countries were agreed upon. This was reported by the press service of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry. A notable aspect concerned the procedure for mutual exchange of students for study in higher military institutes and sharing experience on issues of military building.

Minister Stresses Need for IMF, IBRD Help

LD2509125392 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] For the first time since Ukraine was admitted to the IMF, Ukrainian Finance Minister Hryhoryy Pyatachenko spoke at its session in Washington. He stated that our young sovereign state is today among those countries of the world which need help of such authoritative organizations like the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development [IBRD].

National Affairs

Economic Reform Plan Sees Larger State Role

OW2609203592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1919 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The working group set for drawing a new economic program for the Ukrainian government held a press conference in Kiev Sept. 25. In the words of the head of the working group, Viktor Lisitskiy, "the plan of actions and measures aimed at promoting the economic reform in Ukraine" consists of four parts:

1. Reformation of economy through improved efficiency of entrepreneurship;

2. Government regulation of economic processes with the view to curb the inflation;

3. Establishment of market structures and market medium;

4. Strengthening of executive power for the purpose of bolstering control over these processes.

Mr. Lisitskiy emphasized that the strategy of the new plan complies with the national policy of Ukraine's economic development approved by the republic's Supreme Council.

Member of the working group, Dr Anatoli Filipenko, Ph.D., said that the opposition is not able to appraise the actual scope of the crisis that has engulfed Ukraine.

Mr. Filipenko maintains that the state ought to interfere in the social and economic processes more persistently. In his words, similar methods were resorted to in post-war Western Europe, Taiwan and South Korea in order to overcome the economic crisis.

The "Popular Rukh", the alliance "New Ukraine" and oppositional parties and movements are highly critical of the plan of economic reforms proposed by the Cabinet of Ministers, calling it a comeback to the command and administrative control system.

Coupons' Value Continues To Fall Against Ruble

LD2609215092 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Summary] According to our reviewer the depreciation of the coupon even against the Russian ruble is taking place because of the absence of a network of exchange points. Actually they do exist but in reality it is difficult to exchange money in them. One must first obtain a stamp from a special commission and give a reason for wanting to exchange money into Russian rubles. Even then coupons can only be exchanged if there is a sufficient amount of rubles in the exchange points. For example, 160,000 rubles [R] which was sent to the central savings bank of Starokievskyy rayon only lasted

three days. This is why most people resort to changing money in the streets, although the rates are unfavorable for the coupon. In Kiev today the exchange rate was 145 coupons for R100.

Protestors Confronted Outside Crimean Parliament

LD2509152192 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] A session of the Crimean Supreme Council opened in Simferopol today. Pickets and rallies in the square in front of the parliament building are accompanying the work of the deputies and are evidence of the the extraordinary nature of the meeting. The main question submitted for consideration by the deputies, which aroused a heated discussion in the hall, was that of the draft law of the Crimean Republic on introducing changes and additions to the republican Constitution. After prolonged debate this question was left on the agenda. Deputies also introduced other issues, in particular the state of preparedness of the Republic's economy for the winter, the creation of commissions to work with other parliaments, the new procedures, the state of health of Vadym Kolysnychenko, the Crimean people's deputy who was beaten brutally in the summer and whose criminal assailants have not been found, and other matters.

The session began with an examination of the draft laws on the state flag and state emblem of the Republic of Crimea. Deputies adopted these laws and confirmed the state symbol of the Republic. Henceforth, a tricolor will fly above Crimea: blue, white, and red stripes which symbolize the future, the present, and the past of the peninsula. An ancient griffin with a pearl—the defender of the young republic—has become the main detail of the Crimean emblem. On a ribbon threaded through the emblem from underneath is its motto: prosperity in unity. After the confirmation of the state symbol, deputies began to discuss the main issue which has been submitted to the session.

[Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian at 0500 GMT on 25 September adds: "The debates unfolding in the parliament provoked a wave of passion among those rallying outside the building of the Crimean parliament. There was a confrontation with employees of the law-enforcement bodies, who used truncheons and tear gas.

["On the reasons for submitting the question for the consideration of the session, Mykola Bahrov, head of the Supreme Soviet, said that the Constitution was adopted in a hurry, therefore it has many defects. The time has come to remove them, after determining the principles on which Crimea's relations with Ukraine are based now. He made an appeal for this to be done in the interests of the Crimeans for the sake of preserving a stable political situation in the Republic.

["A group of deputies insisted on putting the changes to the Constitution to a referendum. The majority of participants in the session were convinced by the argument of the speaker of the parliament, who said that since the main law was adopted by the Supreme Soviet it is its right to correct it. Discussion of the proposed draft law began."]

Crimean Deputies Elaborate on Constitution

LD2809151892 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Crimean people's deputies of the autonomous republic adopted changes and amendments to the republic's Constitution comparatively quickly at their session today. It is now written in the basic law that the Crimean Republic is a legal, democratic, and secular state within the structure of Ukraine, and is developing relations with Ukraine on the basis of mutually-agreed legislative acts and agreements. The republic's jurisdiction extends to its Constitution and the law of Ukraine on the delimitation of powers between the bodies of power of Ukraine and the Crimean Republic. The powers of the highest bodies of authority of the republic were defined more precisely in the Constitution. The Crimean Government will have permanent representation in Kiev. It is emphasized that every citizen of the Crimean Republic is a citizen of Ukraine. Therefore he has the right to have dual citizenship. A social program for the protection of the most vulnerable sections of the population for the second half of this year was adopted at the session. A plan for the privatization of state property in the Crimea was examined. The deputies declared it to be not sufficiently prepared and postponed adopting a decision on it for another month. The issue of dividing state property and naturist and health resorts situated on the territory of the Crimea was also discussed. The session has finished its work.

Two Groups Adopt Statement Listing Demands

LD2709090392 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 26 Sep

[Text] Holding elections for a new composition of the parliament of Ukraine on a multiparty basis; Ukraine leaving the CIS; and setting up a government of people's trust—these are only some of the demands listed in a statement adopted today by the All-Ukrainian Association of Working People's Solidarity and the Union of Ukrainian Students. In order for these demands to be fulfilled the two organizations plan to take protest actions and a joint All-Ukrainian campaign of measures entitled "We demand changes" beginning October this year.

Belarus

Foreign Ministry Banned From Determining Policy

OW2509154292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1442 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin, edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Chairman of the Belarusian Parliament Stanislav Shushkevich banned government structures, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from determining the republic's foreign policy.

At a session of the Presidium of the Council of Ministers the parliamentary speaker stressed that Parliament is the only government organ able to govern foreign policy. After harshly criticizing the nation's foreign ministry, Shushkevich banned the ministry from developing conceptions of Belarus's foreign political and foreign economic activities. The parliamentary speaker accused the foreign ministry of unprofessionalism, non-execution, and of the illegal trade of documents to leave Belarus for foreign nations.

Cabinet members expressed no objections and agreed with Shushkevich. Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko did not attend the government session as he is currently in the United States on business.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Petr Kravchenko is often referred to in Belarusian newspapers as a possible presidential candidate. More likely candidates are Stanislav Shushkevich and Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich.

Kebich on Maintaining State Order at Enterprises

WS2509131592 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1818 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] "The 14 percent drop in industrial production in Belarus is lower than in any of the other CIS countries. This is due to the preservation of the state order at most of the enterprises of the Republic", Vyacheslav Kebich, chairman of Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers, said in an interview to the BELINFORM news agency ."The Government will maintain the state order at enterprises for the next year. However, in reality, it will constitute less than 50 percent of the production of the enterprise so that the working collective could be the owner of the greatest part of its production", said the prime minister.

According to Vyacheslav Kebich, the state order will include all the Republic's and stabilization fund's demands for the necessary commodities, including agricultural production. In addition, the state order will cover all the contractual obligations of Belarus with the CIS countries. The government guarantees all the required energy resources to the enterprises involved in the state order realization. At the same time, these enterprises are to provide their own raw materials and supplies.

The managers of the Republican enterprises, who realized that such a system provides a certain economic stability, agreed to the terms set by the Cabinet. Even the Union of Belarusian Businessmen became interested in the Cabinet's program. Vladimir Koryagin, its president, has asked the government to include the private sector's production on the state order list.

Moldova

Snegur Opposes Centralized Structures in CIS

LD2709185892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1724 GMT 27 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau September 27 TASS—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur declared against the restoration of centralised structures in the Commonwealth of Independent States. In an interview with the German radio he said he prefers the development of bilateral, political and economic relations between the former union republics.

Snegur said that Moldova's recognition by 120 countries, the creation of a National Army with a defensive doctrine and the people's striving to be free are the main proofs of the Moldovan state's viability. The Moldovan president said the Moldovan people favour the economic reforms and realise that the difficulties connected with reforms can be surmounted.

Snegur asserted that the third force had been involved in the conflict in the Dniester Region. It often destabilised the situation to please those whom it served. But suffice it was to conclude the agreement with Russia on settling the conflict for it to cease to be a threat to peace that was established.

'No Grounds for Panic' as Winter Nears

LD2509084892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2321 GMT 24 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Summary] "Winter always scares people but there are no grounds for panic in people in Moldova," Nikolay Fleynik, vice prime minister of the Moldovan Government, stated to an ITAR-TASS correspondent. According to him, bread and bakery products will be provided to the republic's population in sufficient quantities. Even under conditions of a fuel dearth, the first group of more than 260,000 tonnes of high quality grain has been prepared from the harvest of grain crops. This is more than was prepared by this date a year ago. A part of the grain import deliveries has already been received. More than 80,000 tonnes of sunflower oil seeds will arrive this year for processing, which is more than last

year. Moldova's sugar plants will produce output not less than a year ago. The vice prime minister noted that the situation is more complex with regard to animal husbandry. In this sphere, output production has reduced considerably.

Current Dniester Region Situation Noted

PM2809132592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Svetlana Gamova: "Fragile Peace Established In Moldova, Requires Politicians' Attention"]

[Text] Chisinau—The joint monitoring commission in the Dniester Region has made a statement noting that the peacemaking forces have accomplished their mission. Normality has been restored in the region and conditions have been created for the politicians.

The Dniester Region deputies formed a commission to hold talks with Chisinau, but the Moldovan parliamentarians are on vacation at the moment, so the discussion of the special status of the eastern regions of the republic has been postponed as a result. The planned meeting between Moldovan President M. Snegur and Dniester Region leader I. Smirnov was called off. According to information from unofficial sources, the Modovan president called the meeting off, expressing dissatisfaction over the formation of independent state organs, in particular, customs and a border detachment, on the left bank.

Contacts between the right and left banks have been organized only in the economic sphere. With the direct involvement of Moldovan Deputy Prime Minister A. Sangeli, who made a series of trips to parts of the Dniester Region, a commission has been set up comprising Moldovan ministers and their deputies and the leaders of similar offices in the Dniester Region. The fourth war of the banks has ended as a result; enterprises have settled up and debts have been paid. The Kuchurganskaya State District Power Station, which supplies Moldova with electricity, has started to receive payments from the right bank. Exchange of consumer goods has begun.

As for the political processes, only the Moldovan president or republic parliament can decide on negotiating bodies.

Chisinau Rally Backs Druc's Candidacy in Romania

AU2709185592 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1822 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES, 27/9/1992—On Sunday, September 27, a rally was organised in Chisinau by the Christian and Democratic People's Front of Moldova to back Mircea Druc's candidature in Romania's presidential elections.

The rally was attended by about 2,000 people carrying tricolour flags and placards.

The speakers—among whom guests from Bukovina—emphasised the importance of the fact that for the first time after 52 years the Romanians in Bessarabia participate in Romania's political life. It was also showed that Moldova's only chance of existence is its reunion with the country.

The supreme goal of the national liberation movement, of the People's Front—the speakers underscored—is the reunion with the country from which they were torn away without their will.

Mircea Druc's presence in Romania's presidential elections represents a great victory of the patriotic forces in Bessarabia, the speakers in the rally said.

Romanian Envoy Views Unification Possibility

LD2409134592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2123 GMT 19 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 19 Sep—"We recognize the declaration on Moldova's independence, seeing in this one of the first steps towards the people's historic aspiration—the reunification of the historical Romanian territories," Romania's ambassador Ion Bistreanu stated in an interview to the Chisinau newspaper PACA CIVICE [Civic Peace]. At the same time, according to him, Romania approaches this matter realistically and respects the will of "the people from the left bank of the Prut. "If its firm decision is that Moldova must be independent, then it is our duty to recognize this independence," the ambassador stressed.

Both states are closely cooperating in various spheres, but the Romanian side does not wish to force the processes along, Ion Bistreanu noted. At the same time one should not forget that apart from the wishes of Bucharest and Chisinau, the wishes of the leadership and the people, attempts are being made by other states to interfere in Moldova's internal affairs, either as guarantors or as guardians of some order, human rights or the ethnic group. According to the ambassador, if in the world "everyone starts to take care of the fate of another state, all this reminds one of a farce fraught with non-farcical consequences."

Snegur, Mosanu Attend Combatants' Congress

AU2609153892 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1414 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES, 26/9/1992—The first congress of combatants of the Republic of Moldova started at Causeni, on September 26.

The congress is attended by President Mircea Snegur, Parliament Speaker Alexandru Mosanu, other officials. The leaders of the republic, delegates to the congress observed a minute's silence to the memory of those who died in the fights for Moldova's integrity, laid wreaths to

the foundation stone of the memorial to be built there to the heroes killed in the armed conflict unleashed by the separatist forces.

Moscow TV Examines Status of Russian Speakers

LD2409162192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 20 Sep 92

[From the "Itogi" program]

[Text] Tiraspol politician Grigoriy Marakutsa said this week that Russia is providing the Dniester region not just with moral and diplomatic, but with material and military assistance. Against the backdrop of the Dniester accords, in which Russia regards this region part of Moldova, this statement looks like an attempt to compromise the Kremlin, provided Russia has not in fact changed its position. After the success of halting the hostilities in the Dniester region, the new problems of Moldova have been caused precisely because the Dniester region is actively setting up ministries, border services, and customs, while the nationalists in Chisinau are accusing the present administration of giving in to the separatists. The potential hostages of the situation are the moderate majority of Moldovans and Russians, of whom, incidentally, there are far more on the right bank than in the Dniester region.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Vladimir Luskanov] [video shows reporter standing by Pushkin monument] Chisinau, autumn—the favorite season of the poet who valued freedom higher than all worldly goods. This land has become independent. Some hope for national rebirth, others wonder apprehensively about the threat of national chauvinism. Pushkin go home! There is no such graffiti on this monument and there never has been. The report about it was a mistake. But why is it that since becoming free we have begun making mistakes so frequently?

The capital of Moldova is coming alive after the shock of war. Political emotions have died down for the time being. But no one here would be so bold as to say the worst is now past. The withdrawal of the Paratroop Regiment from Chisinau has begun: Russia's last military unit on the right bank. The weapons have been divided in half. The Moldovan army has received 79 of the paratroop combat vehicles and, in addition, has demanded a battalion of 122-mm guns. Evidently this demand will be met. The withdrawal, which is to be completed by 26 October, is proceeding on the whole without excesses, although not without hassle. Possibly with the departure of the Russian paratroopers yet another reason for squabbles between Moscow and Chisinau will disappear, although there is a different viewpoint.

[A. Lebed, commander of the paratroop regiment] The Russian-speakers are, of course, greatly pained by the withdrawal of the regiment, because the regiment was a guarantor of stability here both for the Russian-speaking population and, I would say, for the president of the republic and for the government.

[Luskanov] Whatever the case, the interests of Russians in Moldova will now be defended by three diplomats, huddled together for 80,000 rubles a month in two rented rooms, without a flag, without any sign, so as not to tempt fate. So what is life like for the 560,000 Russians in independent Moldova, where they are now, like many others incidentally, officially called persons of non- Romanian nationality?

[Moldovan presidential advisor Viktor Grebenshchikov] I would like to point out that even during the hostilities, there were no anti-Russian feelings on the right bank. There were certain remarks in the mass media, but they did not set the tone. Now that things are moving toward stabilization, there is no reason to talk about the possibility of such feelings emerging.

[Luskanov] Classes began in schools in September as normal, including in the 400 Russian schools. The best school in Chisinau is Russian, although the number of pupils in it has dropped slightly. This year, all final year pupils enrolled without difficulty in Moldovan higher education establishments. But why is Valentina Shuykova, director of this fine school, certain she will not be working for long as the head of the school? Why is it that Russian employees of the Moldovan television news service are so anxious about their forthcoming assessment, during which, it has been made clear, not only their professional skills will be assessed?

Priests of the Russian Orthodox Church are also anxious. Why is the Republic's Ministry of Culture and Worship working for a decision on transferring the Orthodox Church to the jurisdiction of the Romanian patriarch? Today Chisinau is very touchy in response to such questions, regarding them as interference in internal affairs. Whatever the case, it is now obvious that the majority of the non-Romanian population of the republic supports the strengthening of the independence and sovereignty of Moldova. It is quite another matter that all steps taken so far by the state have not convinced them of the firmness of the position of the present president. They fear that the extreme right wing, which strives for Moldova to join Romania, may come to power. It is this that worries them most of all today.

[Unidentified orthodox priest] Of course, everyone is worried about the problem of the artificial division of the people—people want to live in peace. They are tired of war, tired of all the outrages, the political outrages. People want to live in peace and, of course, no one is confident of tomorrow, because it is difficult to say now what tomorrow will be like. [end recording]

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Continues State Visit to France

Meets Paris Mayor, Businessmen

LD2509133992 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who is staying in Paris on a state visit, yesterday morning visited the Mayor's Office of the French capital. In the building of the Paris City Hall, the guest was met by Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac. French deputies and members of the city council gathered there to welcome the leader of Kazakhstan. Members of the public and also many members of the Kazakh diaspora in France were also present.

The concluding words of the president's speech, in which he expressed gratitude to Paris and France for taking in thousands of our compatriots who were forced to leave Russia and Kazakhstan after the October Revolution—a deep bow to France and Paris for this—were greeted by stormy applause. [passage omitted]

President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, who is staying in France on a state visit, had a meeting yesterday with representatives of business circles. The meeting was held in the National Council of French Entrepreneurs. The president of Kazakhstan replied to questions from the French businessmen.

Signs Bilateral Agreement

LD2509145292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 25 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A bilateral agreement on the mutual protection of investments was signed during the meeting between Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and French Prime Minister Pierre Beregovoy in Paris. Nazarbayev stressed that one of the priority tasks facing Kazakhstan today is the republic's speediest integration into the world economic community. He also welcomed the desire of French businessmen for cooperation in Kazakhstan and gave the assurance that a sovereign Kazakhstan would create all conditions to boost their activities.

Ends Trip; Comments on CIS Situation

LD2609215292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1945 GMT 26 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Batyrev]

[Text] Paris September 26 TASS—"I am sure all the peoples of the former Soviet Union, having much in common, will in the long run create a normal community with normal political and economic relations", said the Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev in the interview to the "LE MONDE" newspaper. He ended his state visit to France today.

I would not like the split between the Slavic and Asian states of the former Soviet Union to take place. That is why I support the integration of all the CIS members.

Commenting on the present situation in the Commonwealth, the president stressed: "All the CIS states are living through difficult times, that especially concerns Russia. Meanwhile, the position of all these states will, to a considerable extent, depend on how far Russian economic reforms will go. Hence, it is necessary Western states should render priority assistance to Russia, and would agree to defer payments of her external debts. The point at issue is that if Russia fails to pay debts, and Russia cannot make payments now, it means collapse for everybody, creditors included". As to Kazakhstan, noted Nazarbayev, we will pay our share of the former USSR debt independently.

The Kazakh president expressed great anxiety in connection with the developments in Tajikistan. It is an extremely serious question, we cannot be indifferent to the situation in the so close a country to us. Kazakhstan and all the Central Asian Republics should do everything possible to stabilize the situation in Tajikistan, stated the president.

Further on Comments

LD2709030692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1224 GMT 26 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Sep—"The goals of the trip have been achieved." This is Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's assessment of his visit to Germany and France. He made a brief stopover in Moscow today on his return trip from Paris.

Replying to an ITAR-TASS correspondent's questions in the capital's airport, he first noted that both Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Francois Mitterrand were understanding about the desires to defer the repayment of the foreign debt of the former USSR. According to the Kazakh leader, this is extremely important for all CIS countries. Bonn's readiness to provide aid, even free of charge, to 1 million Germans living on Kazakh territory, was an important result of the visit, Nursultan Nazarbayev said.

Assessing President Boris Yeltsin's recent address to the leaders of the CIS countries, Nursultan Nazarbayev noted that the idea of a Commonwealth of "various speeds" voiced in the document is "our common thought." "Nobody should be forced to join the CIS," the president continued. In fact, he stressed, some states are more prepared for integration while others are less

so. Some can join the Commonwealth as associate members and others as observers. However, the advantages of integration should be used, the head of the Kazakh state said in conclusion.

Nursultan Nazarbayev was met at Vnukovo airport by Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

Kyrgyzstan

Vice President Proposes Mediation in Tajikistan

OW2509155392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1443 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin, edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Under the aegis of President Askar Akayev there will be a meeting of the opposing sides of the Tajik conflict in Bishkek October 9th, which will coincide with the CIS summit. Vice President Feliks Kulov reached the agreement; upon his return from a two day tour of Tajikistan Kulov told "IF" [INTERFAX] that the head of the Kyrgyz government "is considering the possibility of the Tajik party to the conflict meeting with representatives of other CIS states".

Kulov said there is a real danger that the Tajik conflict may spread to other Central Asian nations. "Although the Tajik government understands the situation, it cannot solve the problem on its own; in some instances it is very difficult for the government to influence the situation", the vice president said.

Kulov said "Tajiks can solve their own problems but this requires much time and effort". The vice president said bringing in CIS forces or other peacemaking forces is only possible with the approval of the Tajik Parliament. Kulov pointed out that the Tajik Parliament "can hardly convene soon in view of current conditions and obstacles". Thus, consultations in Bishkek are necessary.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: An influential leader of the Kulyabskaya opposition Sangak Safarov insists that CIS peacemaking forces be brought in. Safarov promised to "disarm his own people" as soon as CIS forces enter the region. Due to a boycott by deputies from the Leninabadskaya district, Nabiyev's native region, and some of the Kulyabskaya parliamentarians, it will not be possible to gather the necessary quorum to begin the parliamentary session in the foreseeable future.

The Kyrgyz vice president also noted that the information gathered during his visit has convinced him that "the Afghan mujahidin are fueling the conflict, as there is proof of border crossings".

IF Note: The Director of Tajik border forces Valeriy Kochenov said that during talks with Akhmadshakh Masud's representative, the commander of border forces Lieutenant General Raim Pekhlevan, Afghanistan promised to help cover the "right flank" of the Tajik-Afghan border. In an interview with "IF" Kochenov said the border regions controlled by government forces are much calmer. The section of the border in the Pyandzha and Kunsangir regions, not controlled on the Afghan side by government forces are the most tense. In the last week 50 violators were prevented from crossing the border. Border forces confiscated 30 automatic weapons and grenade launchers. Five shots were fired from the Afghan side.

Delivers Humanitarian Aid

LD2709141892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Kyrgyzstan is ready to assume peacekeeping and mediator functions in settling the situation in neighboring Tajikistan. Kyrgyz Vice President Feliks Kulov stated this following his return to the republic. He had been in Tajikistan on a three-day trip delivering humanitarian aid and medical supplies. The decision on the delivery of this aid was adopted at the request of Tajik delegation at the interparliamentary assembly of the CIS states on 15 September.

Kulov visited Kulyab, Khodzhand, and Dushanbe. His plane was not allowed to land in Kurgan-Tyube due to technical reasons. Nevertheless, Kulov did talk to leaders of the Kurgan-Tyube Oblast.

Kulov revealed that President Akayev intends to invite the leaders of the Tajik state and government structures and of the main Tajik political parties, movements, and influential groups to Bishkek to coincide with the timing of the meeting of the CIS heads of state in Bishkek on 9 October.

Government Works To Establish Grain Independence

OW2509164592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin, edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The government has begun implementing a program to end the nation's reliance on grain imports by 1997. President Akayev signed a resolution Thursday [24 September] on the development of irrigation systems, land reclamation, and cultivation for 1992-1994. This step is designed to increase the efficiency of the nation's land use.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: In the last year water system construction has substantially fallen in Kyrgyzstan; water and land resources are inefficient, and the acquisition of new irrigated lands is moving slowly.

Exclusively for "IF" [INTERFAX] the president's Press Secretary Kabai Karabekov commented that Kyrgyzstan

spends the greater portion of its financial resources on grain imports. Out of the required 3 Mn [million] tonnes a year, the nation must import 1 Mn tonnes. In 1992 alone, Kyrgyzstan spent 25 bn [billion] rubles on imports, while Kyrgyz industry earns just 14 bn rubles a year. With the price for one kilogram of grain at 25 rubles, a loaf of bread costs 37 rubles.

Nevertheless, Karabekov said the nation plans to produce an additional 300 thousand tonnes of grain by obtaining 18 thousand hectares of land, and by redeveloping another 20 thousand hectares by 1994. Grain production should be brought up to 500 thousand tonnes by 1993-1994 and the nation should be self-sufficient by 1997.

IF Note: Kyrgyzstan has allocated 300 Mn from the national budget to finance irrigation and land reclamation. The 1993 budget will direct 1.8 bn rubles to the industry.

Measures Adopted To Protect Media Bodies

LD2509223692 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 1600 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] The Government of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan has adopted a resolution on priority measures to defend the mass media, bodies of state power and control, and state publishing houses under conditions of the transfer to market relations. There are also plans to increase subsidies to compensate for expenses incurred in issuing socially important publications. Preferential tariffs are being established for publishing houses, the state concern [name indistinct], and the state radio and television agency for the use of electric power. It is recommended that the national bank of the Republic examine the question of providing preferential credits for the acquisition of technical equipment produced outside the borders of the CIS. The Economics and Finance Ministry has one month to produce proposals on freeing the editorial boards of newspapers, magazines, KYRGYZTAG, the state radio and television agency [words indistinct] from value-added tax and taxation on basic activity areas. The resolution provides for a number of other measures to protect the mass media, bodies of state power and control, and state publishing houses. The resolution will be published in full in the press.

200 Kg of Potassium Cyanide Missing From Plant

LD2509160092 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1511 GMT 25 Sep 92

[By KYRGYSTAG correspondent Albert Bogdanov for TASS]

[Text] Bishkek September 25 TASS—A large quantity of poison stolen from the Kyrgyz "Makmalzoloto" plant is still missing despite efforts by the Kyrgyz Interior Ministry and the Ministry of State Security to recover it.

On Friday, 19 kilograms of potassium cyanide were found missing from the "Makmalzoloto". Six kilograms of the same poison had been confiscated from a messenger a month ago by the Kyrgyz Committee for State Security. Investigators believed at the time the poison had been stolen by people who wanted to commit acts of terrorism.

A total of 200 kilograms of potassium cyanide were missing from the Makmalzoloto warehouse.

The stolen stuff is enough to poison the entire population of the Commonwealth of Independent States. If it falls in the hands of criminals, the consequnces would be disastrous.

Tajikistan

Russian Troops Liberate Trapped Leaders

OW2609143992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1311 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The acting president of the Tajik Republic, Akbarsho Iskandarov, and the republic's Acting Prime Minister Abdumalik Abulladjanov were blocked Friday [25 September] in Kulyab by the local guards a thousand-man strong on the territory of a Russian military unit where they were holding talks. Apart from the guards, the Russian military installation was surrounded by crowds of women and children who vigorously demanded that the republic's authorities take immediate and effective measures for normalizing the situation in Tajikistan. During the raid, the guards, reportedly, also captured the helicopter that had airlifted the delegation to the premises of the Russian military unit.

A source close to the Tajik Government informs INTERFAX that in order to find a way out of the situation that has developed in the military unit Akbarsho Iskandarov and Abdumalik Abulladjanov established contact with the governments of Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin is said to have advised the troops to make everything possible to resolve the conflict peacefully.

The troops staged a ruse, designated "false alarm", and a maneuver which enabled them to take the delegation clad in the air borne troops outfits out of the premises of the Russian unit. They returned to Dushanbe late last night on board a military helicopter.

On Saturday, Mr Iskandarov and Mr Abullojanov resumed their regular duties and conducted several conferences on the government level addressing the results of their talks which, however, failed to produce settlement of the situation.

Fighting Continues in Kurgan-Tyube

LD2509141092 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] In accordance with reports coming from Kurgan-Tyube, the situation is extremely tense there. Serious clashes are continuing between the self-defense forces and the anti-government forces in the Lomonosov settlement of Kurgan-Tyube city, the [word indistinct] of Vakhsh valley in the agriculture institute, the first and second sectors of the Kuybyshev farm. People have been killed and wounded on both sides. Residential homes have been set ablaze in some places. The dangerous thing is that heavy weapons have been used in the latest fightings.

In accordance with another report, the Russian Army stationed in Kurgan-Tyube, moved several of their armored vehicles to the Lomonosov settlement under the pretext of protecting their officers' families. The foreign forces are (?unashamedly) supporting the anti-government forces under any pretext. Drinking water is still not available in the city.

[Moscow Teleradiokonpaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1100 GMT, on the "Novosti" newscast, adds the following: "Tense spots were relatively calm, with the exception of Kurgan-Tyube. Blasts from the hail-dispersal installations were heard there. As we were informed in the Kurgan-Tuybe garrison, grenade explosions were heard in the city. Two anti-infantry grenades exploded on regiment territory. This morning an 80-year-old woman was shot in the street by an unknown marksman. During the last two days the leadership of the Republic has undertaken a number of practical steps, which give reasons to believe that the social and political situation is coming under control.

["The decree signed by the acting republic president Iskandarov and published today in the newspapers envisages additional measures for stabilization of the situation and the stronger measures against crime. In particular, united headquarters of the law-enforcement organs for disengagement of the conflicting armed groups is being set up in Kurgan-Tuybe. The same decree instructs the cabinet of ministers of the republic to speed up decisions on the question of lifting the information isolation in the republic. The rapid response groups have been active in the capital since yesterday. Together with the militia servicemen they include members of the national salvation front and university students of the capital."]

Russian Forces Position in Lomonosovo 'Critical'

OW2609202892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1918 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with IF [INTERFAX], the commander of a Russian regiment stationed in Lomonosovo village in Tajikistan's Kurgan-Tyube Region, Yevgeniy Merkulov, described the position of the Russian forces in the region as critical. His own regiment is blockaded by conflicting groups pursuing different political aims. Russian servicemen are frequently insulted, and the family of one of them was taken hostage on one occasion.

The plan for the maintenance of law and order in the village which provides for joint efforts on the part of the Russian regiment, Kurgan-Tyube self-defense forces, and the local interior and security departments is not being carried out.

Merkulov rejected the claims of members of some of the conflicting groups to the effect that the Russian forces collaborate with some of the groups, providing them with shelter and weapons. Neither has there been a single instance of illegal arms trade, Merkulov said.

Regiment Attacked, Hostages Taken

LD2709095892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] According to an INTERFAX report, fierce clashes between opposing groups are continuing in the Kurgan-Tyube Oblast, Tajikistan.

Combat actions opened in the settlement of Lomonosovo this morning. A Russian regiment is deployed on the territory of this settlement. It has been blocked on all sides by opposing groups of various orientation. Members of one of the groups attacked the regiment compound and seized two tanks and an armoured vehicle, an INTERFAX correspondent has reported from Dushanbe.

At the same time, the command of the Russian forces in Tajikistan has stated that an anti-aircraft subunit was attacked last night. The attackers seized 12 rockets and took the regiment commander, a battalion commander, and a soldier hostage. [Moscow International in English at 1200 GMT on 27 September in a similar report adds: "INTERFAX news agency reports the hostages might be killed if the tanks on the Russian military base are not destroyed."]

So far we have no confirmation of this statement from other sources.

Iskandarov Comments

LD2709150392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1620 GMT 27 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Moscow September 27 TASS—The situation in southern Tajikistan remains highly tense. ITAR-TASS was told on Sunday [27 September] over the phone by Akbarsho Iskandarov, acting president of the republic

and chairman of the Supreme Soviet, that Kulyab militants had seized four tanks and two armoured personnel carriers from the Russian troops.

The fact of the capture was confirmed by commander of the 201st Russian division in Dushanbe, major-general Mukhritdin Ashurov. Ashurov also said that two officers, two non-commissioned officers and one soldier were taken hostage. The commanding officers of the division decided to destroy the captured armour. One of the tanks was soon destroyed but the other three tanks are still held by militants.

Ashurov said that a Russian regiment in the Lomonosovo settlement, the Kurgan-Tyubin region, found itself in a difficult situation. It is surrounded by approximately 350 Kulyab guards who want to seize armour and weapons. The commander of the division, according to the general, plans to urgently dispatch reinforcements to Lomonosovo as soon as the military find a crossing through the River Vaksh, the bridge on which was blown up.

The commander of the division also said that the buildings of the city council and local police were destroyed in Kurgan-Tyube during combat operations. A total of 301 prisoners were set free from the city prison. The situation in the city is not controlled, he concluded.

Talks on Hostages Begin

OW2709165992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1648 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Fighting in Tajikistan is intensifying. In Kurgan-Tyube Region one of the groupings is using 3 tanks and 1 armoured vehicle captured from the Russian regiment stationed in Kulyab Region. There are reports that 5 officers from the regiment were captured together with the military equipment. The use of tanks aggravated the conflict in Kurgan-Tyube Region.

Sunday morning 200 militants from one of the warring groupings raided the regiment's air-defence unit. The attackers seized 12 missiles, took two officers and a private hostage, and presented an ultimatum: all the tanks captured in Kulyab should be destroyed, otherwise the hostages will be shot dead. In this connection talks have begun with Major-General Mukhriddin Ashurov, commander of the Russian troops stationed in Tajikistan.

In the meantime the general dispatched a unit comprising 8 tanks and armoured vehicles to Kurgan-Tyube to help the Russian regiment besieged there. On its way the unit was fired at from grenade-launchers. One tank and one armoured vehicle were put out of action. One serviceman was wounded. According to our correspondent, the unit has 52 servicemen, 49 of them officers. 90% of rank-and-file servicemen in the Russian division in Tajikistan come from the local population, and they are denied arms.

Fighting is raging in the city. Self-defence forces and municipal police are repulsing the attackers.

Military actions are taking place in other localities, too. The Kuibyshev state farm is a battlefield. According to the military, intensive shooting is heard in the area of the Chormagzak Pass.

Lomonosovo 'Liberated'

LD2709004592 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1000 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] According to reports, the situation in Kurgan-Tyube oblast over the past two days was relatively calm. Pro-government forces liberated the village of Lomonosov from the armed formations of Rustam Abdurakhim and Sangak Safarov. Dozens of armed men from these groups were captured and are being investigated. The situation in the oblast is being controlled by Interior Ministry personnel, the Committee for National Security, and people's volunteer corps.

According to verified reports, part of the Kyzyl Kala bridge has been blown up. Repair work is now under way. According to the latest reports, the first and second units of the Kuibyshev state farm in Bakhtarskiy rayon have been liberated from Sangak Safarov's armed band.

Operation Begins To Disarm Irregulars

LD2609160692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1210 GMT 26 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 26 Sep— In Kurgan-Tyube oblast today, by decision of the republican authorities, an operation began to disarm Kulyab irregulars and expell them from the areas where they are concentrated. This morning, units of the law enforcement bodies in cooperation with the forces of the volunteer municipal militia created under the oblast executive committee, began to approach the village of Lomonosovo, where, according to their information, the Kulyab fighters are sheltering.

The republican Interior Ministry press center confirmed that occasional shots are being heard in the village. However, they do not have any more detailed information at this moment. In other regions of the town and in the villages adjacent to the administrative center, the situation is relatively stable. According to the press center, during the night an unidentified group attempted to blow up a road bridge on the approaches to Kurgan-Tyube. However, the damage to the bridge is insignificant.

According to the press center of the Tajikistan National Security Committee, during the past 24 hours the situation in the region of the Chormagzak pass near the town of Nurek—a new flashpoint in the republic—has not altered.

Opposing groups concentrated on the two sides of the pass have not yet undertaken any actions. At the same time the self-defense units on the Kofirnikhonskiy rayon side are demanding that the government take decisive action to expell the Kulyab irregulars from Nurek and the territory of Nurek hydroelectric power plant.

Simultaneously with the start of resolute actions to restore order, the Tajikistan authorities are not ceasing their search for a political solution to the armed conflict. It has been learned from unofficial sources that yesterday in one of the rayons of Kulyab oblast the republic's acting Prime Minister Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov, Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Akhmadzhon Saidov, and other officials held talks with the oblast leadership. The results of the dialogue are not yet known. However, according to the cautious assessment of one of the participants, "they are rather pessimistic". Meanwhile the oblast's economic position is catastrophic. Because of the economic blockade, the 800,000 strong population is on the brink of starvation. The absence of medicines is being felt.

The flames of internecine strife, fortunately, have not touched the Tajik capital. However, the local authorities here are coming up against another problem: criminal elements have become more active. The main types of crime, according to Interior Ministry data, are thefts of personal property and vehicles and violent robberies of citizens, including foreigners.

Iskandarov, Russian Envoy Meet on Cooperation

LD2509202692 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Uzbek 1400 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Akbarsho Iskandarov, acting president of the Republic of Tajikistan and chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, received [name indistinct], the envoy of the Russian Federation accredited to Tajikistan, and (?Gentev), advisor to the Russian foreign minister. During the talks, Iskandarov, at the request of the diplomats, spoke on the sociopolitical and economic situation in Tajikistan and the measures taken by the leadership of the republic. [Name indistinct] and (?Gentev) assured acting president Iskandarov of the readiness of the Russian Federation to cooperate with Tajikistan and to establish economic and cultural relations. [Word indistinct] Iskandarov also spoke on (?his) visit in the near future to Moscow. [sentence indistinct]

Russian Troops Withdrawn From Most Facilities

LD2609044592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] By decision of the commander of the 201st Russian Division, almost all the posts set up earlier at state facilities in Tajikistan have been removed. Russian servicemen continue to guard Nurek and the Nurek hydroelectric power station. This was reported to a Radio Liberty correspondent by Viktor Rodin, senior officer for the press service of the Russian Defense Ministry. In his words, the overall situation in Tajikistan remains strained. Exchanges of fire between the warring sides are continuing in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast. However, over the past 24 hours there has not been a single attack on the Russian servicemen over the past 24 hours.

Russian Regiment Accused of Escalating Conflict

OW2809120692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1120 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a press conference in Kurgan-Tyube on Monday [28 September] the chairman of the Kurgan-Tyube provincial executive committee, Nurali Kurbanov, declared that there are "practically not people in the city" after yesterday's fighting. According to Kurbanov, too many people were killed, the precise number is difficult to be defined. Kurbanov also said that the chief of the city police and 13 militiamen were shot on Sunday.

According to him, the Russian regiment which is stationed in Kurgan-Tyube and from which territory 3 tanks and 1 APC had been driven away promoted to the escalation of conflict between confronting formations of different political orientation". [no opening quotation mark as received] According to the Kurgan-Tyube leadership, thanks to this one of the sides managed to gain substantial predominance.

"The city was subjected to fire from different kinds of weapons including tanks", Kurbanov pointed out. "The Russian regiment is to be blamed for the blood of victims of this drama", he believes. Kurbanov accused the commander of the regiment Yevgeniy Merkulov of the sale of weapons to the other warring side.

The efforts of the republic's leadership are ineffective and bring no practical results. Kurbanov believes that the conflict can be settled only after complete withdrawal of the Russian forces from the Tajik territory.

Russian Weapons Reportedly Used

LD2809114392 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] There were heavy (?clashes) throughout yesterday in Kurgan-Tyube city. Russian soldiers engaged in military interference in the internal affairs of Tajikistan and gave four tanks, three [word indistinct] vehicles, and four armored vehicles to Langari Languriyev's forces.

Throughout the day, the enemy's [Languriyev's] armored vehicles and tanks transformed the city of Kurgan-Tyube city into a [word indistinct] battlefield. Dozens of buildings were destroyed and (?hundreds) of

people were killed or wounded. The building of the city's internal affairs department was among those destroyed. [Name indistinct], chairman of the Kurgan-Tyube internal affairs department, and 13 of his workers were killed by Sangak Safarov, Rustam Abdurakhimov, and Langari Languriyev, traitors to the country.

Yesterday after these killings, Langari Languriyev's criminals attacked the building of the committee for national security of Kurgan-Tyube Oblast. They did not succeed in taking the building, because the courageous workers of the committee resolutely defended the building and were able to repulse the attack.

According to available reports, there is no one left in Kurgan-Tyube city. Everyone has taken refuge outside the city. The defense units have remained in the city to courageously sacrifice their lives in the fight against the enemy and the traitors to the nation.

Dear listeners, according to the reports we have, the interference by CIS forces in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast has made the situation quite tense. Please listen to a telephone interview with Adilbek Yatimov, chairman of the (?Democratic Party) of Kurgan-Tyube Oblast by our correspondent [name indistinct] Delavarzod.

[Begin recording] [Delavarzod] Can you please give our listeners detailed information on the situation on 27 and 28 September this year.

[Yatimov] We nearly liberated the oblast, but unfortunately the head of the garrison inside Kurgan-Tyube (?stole) four modern tanks and gave them to the insurgents. At 1000 [0500 GMT], they attacked the city together with another group of the insurgents who had come from Kulyab Oblast.

[Words indistinct] from 0400 to 1000 this morning today. There was a meeting in the city center which presented demands. At 0700, they notified the president [acting President Akbarsho Iskandarov] and (?told) the president said that they will do everything possible to avoid the spilling of even one person's blood. At 1000 in the morning when the meeting was being held in the city center [passage indistinct].

The tanks which went to (?seize) the other tanks returned and fired at the city. All the shells—they weigh approximately 50-60 kg each—destroyed every home they struck. One group set out for the first, second, and third departments of Kuibyshev state farm and the Kyzyl Kala bridge, while the other group laid siege to the city. Thus, the whole city fell to the hands of the insurgents.

They have four tanks given to them by the CIS forces in Kurgan- Tyube city, plus other tanks which were brought from Kulyab Oblast—we do not know exactly how many because they attacked the city from one side. The people were left in (?a state of confusion] and the self-defense units were scattered. The self-defense units were scattered because they thought that the units sent to them from Mirkulov would not attack them and would join their (?units). In was in this manner that they destroyed the city.

According to the available information, the insurgents released [words indistinct] in Kurgan-Tyube city. [Passage indistinct].

If they have (?defeated) the military units in the city, (?they will have taken) many of the tanks there. If they have taken these tanks, I do not know what the fate of the oblast will be; certainly the fate of the republic in general is in danger.

I put it to the government of the republic, the president, and their other representatives that yesterday they promised us that they would use all possible means but they have not done anything and have not taken any action. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

News Conference Held

LD2809122692 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0800 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] As you already know today, a news conference was held at 1100 [0600 GMT] today in the building of the Tajik Cabinet of Ministers about the political consequences of recent events. Our correspondent, Burkhonuddin Karimzoda, attended this news conference and has returned now to give you this report.

[Burkhonuddin] Thank you. Esteemed listeners, first I must say that I cannot tell you everything that was said at the news conference. It lasted for about one hour, and it was only a few moments ago that I returned from there to this studio.

The news conference was devoted to the situation in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast. Nurali Kurbonov, chairman of the oblast executive committee, and a number of other oblast officials were present.

Esteemed Kurbonov spoke on yesterday's events in the city of Kurgan-Tyube. He stated that the barbarous attack by the butchers of our nation which took place with the help of the Russian Army was a horrific event. The most modern heavy military hardware was used against innocent, defenseless people and against the defenders of the city. As a result of this barbarous attack, hundreds of people were killed or wounded.

One of the participants in the news conference stated that Russian Army tanks even fired on people who were fleeing the city in automobiles or on tractors. Most of those who were fleeing were women, children, and old men, and most of them were killed. [Dushanbe Radio in Tajik at 1700 GMT on 27 September in a similar report adds: "According to information from Tajikistan television, a Russian serviceman and other soldiers from OMON [special purpose militia detachment] started firing on innocent people in the city of Koparnikhon this evening, resulting in the death of one person and the wounding of (?four) others."]

According to Nurali Kurbonov, those modern heavy tanks and (?armored vehicles) cannot leave their bases without the permission of their responsible authorities, but the leaders of the Russian Army in Tajikistan—including the Russian General Ashurov and Mirkulov, the head of this army—are still trying to deny that this happened. They claim that this heavy military hardware was stolen. Esteemed Kurbonov and other participants in the news conference denounced these lies of the Russian henchmen.

Esteemed listeners, the leaders of Kurgan-Tyube Oblast presented a lot of facts about the events in Vakhshanzamin and yesterday's sad events in the city of Kurgan-Tyube.

Russians Deny Weapons Charges

LD2509175292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1630 GMT 25 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Dushanbe September 25 TASS—"Most of weapons used to continue armed conflict in the south of Tajikistan come from CIS countries and Russian units stationed in Tajikistan. Some 10-15 per cent of the weapons needed by the warring sides are delivered from Afghanistan," Deputy Chairman of the Tajik Committee of State Security Djurabek Aminov told ITAR-TASS on Friday [25 September].

According to Aminov, the market price for a submachine gun ranges from 60,000 to 80,000 roubles, while that of a machine-gun is 160,000 roubles.

An armoured carrier was bought for one million roubles. Aminov believes some servicemen cannot resist the temptation to make money on the side.

Major-General Mukhriddin Ashurov, commander of the 201th Russian Motorized Infantry Regiment, categorically denied Aminov's statement.

He described charges against Russian servicemen as groundless and unproven. "Our officers exercise daily control over weapons and ammunition, and ammunition depots have been sealed off and mines have been planted there," the general said.

As to the armoured carrier, it was seized by Kulyab guards as a result of an armed attack.

Colonel Nikolay Madzhar, deputy head of the department for maintaining public order, is confident that the bulk of weapons and ammunition comes from Afghanistan rather than from Russian military units.

At the same time the Interior Ministry admitted that over several months of armed confrontation hundreds of firearms had been seized from the local police.

There are incidents when policemen surrender weapons without any resistance.

Tajik Interior Minister Mamadayez Navdzhuvanov believes there are some 15,000-18,000 illegal weapons in Tajikistan. He said the weapons were being widely used, the number of armed assaults was increasing, and that there was a growing number of incidents involving stealing private property and hijacking transport vehicles.

According to Ashurov, the deployment of the CIS peacekeeping forces can help disengage the warring sides, to achieve a ceasefire, and relieve law-enforcement bodies from extra duties to enable them to begin work disarming illegal armed formations.

Skepticism Over Ability To Crush Resistance

PM2809091592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 24 Sep 92 p 1

[U. Babakhanov report: "Will 30 Armored Personnel Carriers Save Tajik Democracy?"]

[Text] The deadline set by Akbarsho Iskandarov, the new Tajik head of state, for the opposing sides to cease fire expired yesterday. All armed groupings, regardless of their political orientation and regional allegiance, were ordered in an ultimatum-like manner to end the bloodshed and to resolve all problems at the negotiating table. Otherwise there was a promise to use force against them.

At present, however, many people in Tajikistan are skeptical of the state's ability to crush the gunmen's resistance by force, if such a need arises. The reason is the small size of the republic's law-enforcement organs and their poor technical equipment.

"Four times recently our government has asked the Russian Federation to sell us 30 units of armored hardware," Dzhurabek Aminov, first deputy chairman of the National Security Committee, told our correspondent. "We planned to use it to organize 16 posts to separate the opposing groupings. We have not yet received a reply to our request. It cannot be ruled out that we will now have to put a similar request to some other country...."

Bridge Blown Up; Security Chief Comments

OW2609144892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the early hours today an unidentified armed group attempted to blow up a bridge over the Vakhsh River in Tajikistan's Kurgan-Tyube Region on the road leading to Dushanbe.

The chairman of the regional department of the Tajik National Security Committee, Usmon Yerov, told IF [INTERFAX] in an exclusive interview that the explosion had not caused much damage, possibly because "the criminals didn't have much experience."

Yerov also said the local self-defense regiment was going to be changed into a municipal police one. It will, in particular, have to guard the Vakhsh fertilizer plant, and cut short plunder attempts in Kurgan-Tyube and its region.

The town has had no drinking water for nearly ten days, and is short of food. In Yerov's opinion, "the time of negotiations with conflicting groups is over, and the leadership of the republic should go over to more resolute measures to stop the fratricidal war." A local Civil Defense officer, Nikolay Chebotarev, told IF that fighting has been going on for five days between conflicting groups near a Russian regiment's premises in Kurgan-Tyube, with the use of two armored personnel carriers stolen from the regional interior department, grenade cup dischargers, and various kinds of firearms. Six hand grenades have exploded in the past few days on the premises of the regiment, which is maintaining a neutral status.

An army unit of several tanks, armored personnel carriers, and air defense facilities has been brought to the regiment's residential area to ensure the safety of the servicemen's families and over 5,000 refugees. The unit has orders to open fire if attacked.

Chebotarev rejected the claims to the effect that the Russian military provides some of the conflicting groups with weapons. "The Russian forces are maintaining neutrality but this becomes more and more difficult every day," he said.

Cease-Fire Deadline Expires; Officials Comment

LD2709024892 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1000 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] The (?deadline) set by Akbarsho Iskandarov, acting president of the Republic and chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, for the leaders of the opposing armed formations to end the bloodshed—with the warning that force would be used if it was not implemented in time—expired on 24 September.

What measures will the government now take, and will it be necessary to use force if the [word indistinct] war is not ended? A correspondent from the KHOVAR agency approached Deputy Prime Minister Davlat Ismonov and Dzhurabek Amin, first deputy chairman of the Committee for National Security of the Republic with these questions.

The leadership of the Republic is continuing talks with the opposition with the aim of tackling this tragic problem for the Republic by peaceful means, Ismonov stated. What will be [words indistinct]. The use of force never leads to anything good. Under the circumstances such a step would lead to bloodshed. Our compatriots would be killed. At the same time, the people of Tajikistan are expecting practical measures from the government. If the leaders of the armed formations do not listen to the voice of common sense, we will be forced to speak the language of force, not peace. I will repeat once again that we will use all possible means to tackle the conflict by peaceful methods.

According to Dzhurabek Amin, should the armed actions continue it will be necessary to neutralize the leaders of the formations by force. Nothing can stop them, he stated during the telephone conversation. Naturally, everyone wants a peaceful solution. The situation that has arisen, however, has gone beyond all boundaries.

Regarding the situation in Kurgan-Tyube oblast, there is still shooting in the village of Lomonosov, Kurgan-Tyube, and at the Kuibyshev State Farm in Bakhtarskiy Rayon.

Russians Protect Kurgan-Tyube Security Building

LD2709181292 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] According to the latest report, serious [word indistinct] is still continuing in Kurgan-Tyube city. [Word indistinct] the Committee, with the help of the Russian army, are (?protecting) the oblast Committee for National Security building. [passage indistinct].

Turkmenistan

Delegation From Ukraine Arrives for Talks

Schedule Outlined; Bishkek Summit Noted

OW2509164092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1450 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin, edited by Boris Grishchenko; item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A Ukrainian delegation headed by First Vice Prime Minister Konstantin Masik began work in Turkmenistan Friday [25 September]. The Turkmen Vice Prime Minister Nazar Suyunov told "IF" [INTERFAX] that a bilateral agreement on trade and economic cooperation will be prepared at the talks; the agreement will also include shipments of natural gas in the fourth quarter of 1992 and into next year, cooperation in transportation, customs issues, and political and diplomatic relations.

Suyunov said the two sides will sign an agreement for shipments of natural gas in 1993 and the fourth quarter of this year, other agreements will be initialed by the presidents of the two nations, according to a telephone agreement between Sapamurad Niyazov and Leonid Kravchuk.

Suyunov said Kravchuk may visit Turkmenistan soon, "Maybe as soon as September 29-30th".

Suyunov declined to say what Turkmenistan would charge Ukraine for natural gas shipments, saying only that the price "will be determined soon". At the same time, Suyunov pointed out that a price of 4 to 4.5 thousand rubles for one thousand cubic meters had been discussed in August. However, since Russia has raised fuel prices, this figure may also increase. Suyunov said the nation may ship Ukraine 7.5 to 8 bn cubic meters of natural gas in the third quarter of this year.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Shipments to Ukraine were halted February 29th of this year after the two nations failed to agree on price. Ukraine was to receive 28.4 bn [billion] cubic meters of gas in 1992. In the two winter months nearly 3.5 bn cubic meters were shipped, talks to resume shipments brought no results.

Turkmenistan has already signed agreements to establish bilateral relations with Russia and plans to sign a similar agreement with Ukraine.

"The foresight in bilateral relations lies in that they will undoubtedly change the form of relations between states in the CIS framework, thus the CIS will assume a new form. If each nations signs similar agreements which include a system to ensure their fulfillment, this will result in the effectual strengthening of ties within the CIS", Suyunov said.

The vice prime minister commented on the Turkmen government's opinion of the packet of proposals on creating national structures in the CIS, stating that strengthening the CIS via bilateral relations "is more promising than presenting models of a confederation with a uniform mechanism for all states, which will not work". Suyunov said that there is nothing new in the proposals for Bishkek, adding that all of them have been discussed in various forms at previous summits.

"Turkmenistan would like to show the viability of bilateral relations to Russia and Ukraine and plans to sign similar agreements with the Caucasian and Central Asian republics. Bilateral relations will destroy existing unviable organs", Suyunov said. At the same time Suyunov said that the Turkmen delegation will participate in the Bishkek summit.

A number of analysts, commenting on Kravchuk's visit to Ashgabat, and his recent criticism of Nazarbayev's proposals, pointed out that the presidents of Ukraine and Turkmenistan may agree on bilateral relations and formulate a joint position to the summit in Bishkek.

Gas Supplies to Ukraine Resuming

OW2609203292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1918 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the information provided by Turkmenistan's vice premier Nazar Suyunov at a briefing with journalists, Turkmenistan is resuming gas supplies to Ukraine. This agreement was reached as a result of talks between the republic's president Saparmurad Niyazov with Ukraine's first vice premier Konstantin Masik in Ashgabat Saturday [26 September].

In the words of Mr Suyunov, the sides also agreed to unblock the supplies into the republic of the Ukrainian goods and food products which were suspended in February and adopt most favorable conditions for transportation lines.

In the fourth quarter of 1992, Turkmenistan will provide to Ukraine 8 bn [billion] cubic meters of gas at the initial price of 3,000 rubles per thousand cubic meters of gas. In the future this figure is liable to corrections. According to the existing arrangements, in 1993, Ukraine will receive from Turkmenistan 28.4 bn cubic meters of natural gas.

In touching on the forthcoming summit in Bishkek of the CIS heads of states, Mr Masik remarked that "most of the political positions of Ukraine and Turkmenistan coincide which fact was corroborated in a personal conversation between the two presidents".

Mr Masik also revealed that Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk is expected to visit Turkmenistan soon to sign a "whole package of highly important documents" including a bilateral customs agreement and foreign ministries' interaction agreement.

Republic Joins International Monetary Fund

LD2209184992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1846 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington September 22 TASS—Turkmenistan today joined the International Monetary Fund, which now unites 172 states.

The initial IMF quota for Turkmenistan has been established at approximately 46 million U.S. dollars. The country has become the 14th former Soviet republic that has joined the international organization.

Niyazov Announces Grain Purchasing Price Increase

OW2309105192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0953 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On September 21 and 22 Turkmenistan's President Saparmurad Niyazov visited the Chardzhou region to familiarize himself with the current state of agriculture in it.

He highly estimated the local leaders' experience in privatizing the land and urged the administration of other regions to follow their example.

During his tour he announced that purchasing prices on grain will be raised two times. Now one tonne of wheat and corn will be sold at 15,000 rubles, barley - at 10,000 rubles and rice - at 25,000 rubles.

Egyptian Religious Minister, Parliament Head Meet

OW2309105792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0953 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On September 22, Egyptian Minister for Religious Affairs Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub arrived in Turkmenistan for an official visit. He has already met with Chairman of the Turkmen parliament Sakhat Muradov and with Turkmenistan's Muslim leader Kazi Nasrullah Ibadullayev.

The Turkmen Foreign Ministry informed IF [INTERFAX] that the Egyptian leader showed interest in the general situation in the republic and did not put any special accent on any particular issue.

Uzbekistan

Karimov, French Minister Discuss Tajik Situation

OW2809154492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1511 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the opinion of Uzbek president Islam Karimov, the first major step in the direction of attaining settlement in Tajikistan could be a kurultai (congress) of representatives of all of the republic's regions which could be crowned with the presidential elections. This kurultai, the Uzbek president insisted, should be conducted without any interference from without. President Karimov expressed these views in regards to the problems facing the neighboring state during his meeting with French defense minister Pierre Joxe in Tashkent Monday [28 September].

The French defense minister was making a brief stop in Tashkent on his way to France from Cambodia.

President Karimov noted that the developments in the Central Asian region have confirmed his earlier prediction at a meeting with Francoise Mitterand in Helsinki when he said that with the departure of the Russian Army from Afghanistan the world community would lose interest in that country. In the meantime, "it is here where lies the source of most troubles affecting the region," he said.

According to President Karimov, Afghanistan is currently operating up to ten special training camps for terrorist groups that would be penetrating through the Tajik-Afghan border. "Should only their border become open," President Karimov said, "they will move across the border a flurry of drugs and weapons which can reach Europe." In his opinion, this is "part of the concept of the Islamic Fundamentalists which is clearly of global nature".

Mr Karimov avers that these concepts comply with the plans conceived by "fanatics and extremists concentrating around Qazi-Kolo, head of the Tajik Muslims, who is trying to assume the role of their political leader".

Islam Karimov agreed with Pierre Joxe that all the states in this region, including Uzbekistan, are capable of playing a positive role in the peaceful settlement process in this region.

Karimov on Currency, Opposition Claims

LD2709015092 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 26 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Uzbek President Karimov met journalists of major foreign news agencies in Tashkent today.

[Correspondent Ganiyeva] The meeting took place at the request of the major world news agencies, including the BBC, the German radio company Suddeutscher Rundfunk, the Japanese newspaper YOMIURI SHIMBUN, and the French journal VERSION ORIGINALE. Here are some of the questions they asked the president:

Will Uzbekistan introduce its own currency in the near future? It appears Uzbekistan still prefers to stay within the ruble zone since, as the president noted, it is most important to retain economic ties with Russia, establish closer contacts with foreign partners, and achieve a stable currency exchange rate, even though the Republic is already able to introduce its own currency—according to the gold reserves it has now.

One of the most pointed questions was asked by the BBC correspondent: Is the local opposition's claim that the stability and national accord which reigns in the Republic is connected with the absence of democracy and freedom of speech true? President Karimov had this to say: It is doubtful that this information can be treated as objective or that the opposition, which has no thought out and constructive program for further developing the Republic, can be taken seriously.

Draft of New Constitution Noted

OW2509172992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The official draft of the new Uzbek constitution will be published on Saturday 26 September. The draft will make the Olyi Mazhlis (the Supreme Assembly, in essence a parliament) the country's highest legislative body; it will consist of 150 deputies. Citizens of Uzbekistan 25 years and older will be eligible to become deputies.

The head of government and chief executive power will be a president, who will be elected every five years; suffrage is to be universal and equal, and the ballot is to be secret. The presidency may be held by any citizen of the republic 35 years or older who has mastery of the official (Uzbek) language and has lived in the republic for not less than ten years. The same person cannot hold the office of president for more than two subsequent terms.

Armenia

Defense Ministry Pledges Cease-Fire Observation

OW2509172892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1613 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Yerevan has been bound by hard and fast obligations in conjunction with the cease-fire agreement for the Armenia/Azerbaijan conflict zone reached by the Armenian and Azeri Defence Ministers in Sochi and "intends to observe them". These were the words of Armenian Defence Ministry press spokesman Gegam Arutyunyan who was speaking to Interfax. However, Arutyunyan went on to say, "It is also essential that the Azeris abided by their own signature to the document".

The spokesman said that the republic's Defence Minister, Vazgen Sarkisyan, had discussed all aspects of the cease-fire in the conflict zone between the two countries with the Nagorno-Karabakh Defence Committee before signing the Sochi agreement. "We hope that the Karabakh Defence committee will supervise proceedings in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and will give the command to its armed units by the deadline agreed (midnight on September 26th).

Arutyunyan said that the mechanism for implementing the Sochi agreement was currently being worked out in Moscow by Armenian and Azeri experts. The delegation is headed by Armenian armed forces commander General-Major Norad Ter-Grigoryan and Azeri Deputy Defence Minister Rza Gazymov.

After being requested by Interfax to comment on the prospects for implementing the Sochi agreement, Azeri Defence Ministry representative Namik Safikhanov agreed with the statement made by the republic's Defence Minister Rakhim Gaziyev on the fact that "an end to hostilities and a cease-fire were not a likelihood without a mechanism for their proper supervision".

The Azeri Defence Ministry representative said that in Moscow, the Azeri experts had been waiting for the opportunity to discuss the mechanism for implementing the Sochi agreement with their Armenian counterparts for a few days now. However, Safikhanov said that the Armenian experts had yet to arrive in the Russian capital.

Spokesman Says Cease-Fire Accord 'Upset'

OW2609140192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1306 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] It is absolutely clear that Sochi cease-fire agreement at the Armenian-Azerbaijanian border and in Nagorno-Karabakh has been upset, the Armenian president's spokesman, David Shakhnazaryan said in an interview for INTERFAX Saturday [26 September]. In accusing Azerbaijan of violating the cease-fire agreement, Mr. Shakhnazaryan claimed that after midnight of September 25—the time when the cease-fire agreement was to take effect—the Azerbaijanian troops continued fire attacks of the Armenian territory in the border zone and in Nagorno-Karabakh.

According to the accounts provided by the press service of the Armenian Defense Ministry, September 26, the Azerbaijanian armed formations continue their fire attacks at the villages Zot in Armenia's Varden region and Kornidzor in the Gori region. Hostilities, reportedly, are also continuing in Nagorno-Karabakh. In particular, the Azerbaijanis are subjecting to fire the town of Gadrut—the local regional center—and initiated an attack at the village of Chldran.

In the words of Shakhnazaryan, the Armenian Government admits that Nagorno-Karabakh stands out as an individual military and political factor and it is not likely that any efforts for settling the situation there would bear good results. On the other hand, whatever agreement could be achieved as a result of direct contacts between the governments of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh, it would suit all the interested parties, first and foremost, Armenia, which was forced by Azerbaijan to join the warfare, the Armenian president's spokesman emphasized.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1307 GMT on 26 September transmits another report on the fighting: "In today's interview with IF [INTERFAX], the chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh State Defense Committee, Robert Kocharyan, confirmed the reports that Azerbaijan had violated the ceasefire agreement in Nagorno-Karabakh's Mardakert and Askeran Districts.

["According to reports coming from local authorities in various districts of Armenia, Azerbaijan has been violating the ceasefire in the frontier zone as well. From last night to his morning the villages of Movses, Paravakar, Nerkinkarmirakhpyur, and Tsinari in Tauz District and some border villages in Goris District were under continuous Azeri fire. Grad launchers fired missiles today from Azerbaijan's Kubatly District at the village of Kornizor in the Goris District of Armenia wounding some civilians and causing considerable damage.

["According to the Karabakh News Agency, yesterday Azeri forces subjected Martuni District to intensive fire and air raids. Last evening an artillery and missile attack was launched on Martuni from Azeri positions in Agdam and Fizuli Districts. Some wounded and considerable destruction is reported.

["Around 4:00 p.m. yesterday two SU-25 aircraft and two MI-24 helicopters from the Azeri Air Force raided Martuni dropping three pellet bombs on the town. The aircraft then flew towards the Lachin humanitarian corridor via which Armenia delivers goods to Nagorno-Karabakh, dropping another two bombs there.

["Seven civilians were killed and 38 wounded yesterday in an artillery and missile attack on Askeran District.

This morning another artillery and missile attack began on the district, with large Azeri forces, including tanks and other armored vehicles, launching an offensive towards the Armenian villages of Parukh and Karaglukh.

["Last evening Azeri forces began an attack in Martuni District moving towards the Armenian village of Chldran. Fighting continued throughout the night. This morning Armenian forces were still containing the Azeri offensive.

["An Azeri Defense Ministry official told IF this morning that, although on the eve of the enforcement of the Sochi agreement Azeri Defense Minister Ragim Gaziyev ordered the Azeri armed forces to stop fighting, at 7:46 a.m. today the Armenians fired at villages in Azerbaijan's Lachin District. The official said the Armenians were at that moment firing at Azerbaijan's Kubatly and Kazakh Districts. He did not know, however, whether any fighting was going on in Nagorno-Karabakh."]

NKR Leader Supports Cease-Fire in Grachev Letter

NC2509195592 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Armenian presidential press service reported that Serdz Sargsyan, chairman of the self-defense committee of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR], sent a message to Russian Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev on 25 September.

The message says that the principles found in the cease-fire agreement signed in Sochi on 19 September are in agreement with the position of the NKR leadership, which on many occasions has come out in favor of resolving the conflict through political means.

Sargsyan then informed Grachev that he will order the NKR self-defense forces to implement the cease-fire as soon as he receives an official (?confirmation) of a similar order by the Azerbaijani defense minister.

Truce Holds on Border With Nakhichevan

OW2609195992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1913 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Government delegations from Armenia and Nakhichevan met on 25 September in a village in the Kapan region of Armenia and agreed to the maintenance of a truce on the Armenian-Nakhichevani border. The heads of the delegations—Ara Saakian, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Armenia, and Afiaddin Jalilov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan—noted that certain tensions continued to hamper relations between the neighboring countries, in particular referring to incidents in the area of Zangelan (on the Azeri side) and Megri-Kapan (in Armenian territory). Both sides recognized the necessity of maintaining direct contact with regional leaders.

According to information obtained from the press service of the Armenian parliament, also discussed at the meeting were questions involving the supply lines for gas and energy to the Republic of Nakhichevan, which are a part of the Azeri system but pass through the territory of Armenia. Specialists were instructed to present their suggestions within five days. The resumption of railway service through Armenia to Nakhichevan was also discussed.

Prime Minister Says Bread Imports Improving

OW2509153992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1442 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin, edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an exclusive interview with Interfax at the end of a closed parliamentary session which discussed supplies of bread products and winter provisions to the republic, Prime-Minister Khosrov Arutyunyan said that there was "no reason for panic, although there was some cause for concern". He emphasized that the government was doing all it could.

The situation regarding bread imports was, according to the prime minister, improving considerably. In particular Iran had expressed readiness to grant 100,000 tons of flour during the next month and a half in return for credit loans, and Turkey had agreed to grant 100,000 tons of grain on the same basis.

Court Orders Radio, TV Time for Communists

NC2509095192 Yerevan SNARK in English 1451 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Yerevan, 23 Sep (SNARK)—Today the People's Court of the Myasnikyanskiy Rayon of the Armenian capital has satisfied the action of the Armenian Communist Party and obliged the State Department of Radio and TV during the period of month give the Armenian communists the chance to speak on TV. Samvel Gevorkyan, chairman of the State Department of Radio and TV, hasn't come to the court. Despite the existing agreement he refused to give the TV air to the Armenian communists. He declared that there should wait for the end of the process taking place in the Russian Constitution Court. Gevorkyan stated that the Armenian Communist Party is the successor of the forbidden Communist Party of the USSR. Sergey Badalyan, the Armenian Communist Party leader, has declared the SNARK reporter that the Armenian communists left the CPSU in the Autumn of 1990. Today only Armenia has its legal communist party which is officially registered in the Armenian Ministry of Justice.

Azerbaijan

Interior Minister Rejects CIS Troops in Karabakh

OW2809162092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azerbaijan's Interior Minister Iskender Khamidov said that "no one has the right to send foreign troops to Azerbaijan". He made such a statement commenting on Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's interview with Moscow TV on the possibility of sending foreign troops to Karabakh if the cease-fire agreement is foiled.

Khamidov said that the troops of the CIS are actually Russian troops. Therefore, the sending of these troops to Karabakh will mean the annexation of Azerbaijan, he went on to say. He also noted that judging from history, the Russian troops have no peace-keeping practice.

Defense Ministry Reports on Karabakh Fighting

OW2609195092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1910 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to an account provided to Interfax by the Azerbaijanian defense ministry, the Armenian armed formations Saturday [26 September] subjected the town of Agdam to intensive fire attacks by "Grad" multiple rocket launchers. The estimates of casualties and damage to the town are yet to be established. Simultaneously, we are receiving reports of fire attacks at a number of border zone village in Kedabek and Kelbadjar regions of Azerbaijan.

A spokesman for the Azerbaijanian defense ministry noted that the cease-fire order by the Azerbaijanian defense minister is still in force. The Azerbaijanian troops are returning fire. In the opinion expressed by the spokesman for the Azerbaijanian defense ministry, the main reason for the violation of the cease-fire agreement by the Armenian side is the absence of any effective control mechanism. He emphasized that the work for setting up an efficient agreement control mechanism was literally upset by the Armenian side, whose delegation arrived in Moscow for consultations with a four-day delay.

The Karabakh news agency reports that according to the information as of 4 p.m. Sept. 26, formations of the Azerbaijanian Army, in violation of the cease-fire agreement are continuing an armor attack in the direction of the Armenian villages of Chldran in Mardakert region and Parukh in Askeran region. The attack of the Azerbaijanian units, reportedly, is backed by intensive missile and artillery fire support. The Armenian self-defense detachments are holding back the attack of the Azerbaijanian troops. There are casualties on both sides.

Simultaneously, the town of Gadrut - the local regional center - is subjected to artillery and "Grad" MRL fire.

Sept. 26, the Azerbaijanian side resumed fire attacks in the direction of the Lachnincky humanitarian corridor used by Armenia to deliver its relief supplies to Nagorno-Karabakh. Five persons were reportedly killed in the attack. This region is also subject to air raids by Azerbaijanian MI-24 helicopters. Nonetheless, the Karabakh news agency maintains that the road is still functioning normally.

According to the operative reports, the Azerbaijanian side is concentrating armored vehicles in the areas south and north of the Lachinsky highway. The news agency asserts, the intensity of combat operations has not abated, rather it has a pronounced tendency for further build-up.

More news about armed confrontations are coming from the Armenian-Azerbaijanian border zone. According to the reports from Goris, eight casualties among peaceful population and serious damage have been inflicted on the Armenian village Kornidzor as a result of the Azerbaijanian fire attack Sept. 26 by the "Grad" MRLs. Azerbaijanian large-caliber artillery is delivering fire on the Armenian village of Zot in Vardenis region. Two persons were killed and several wounded as a result of a missile and artillery fire attack of the town of Krasnoselsk - an Armenian regional center in the border zone.

The Karabakh news agency refutes the allegations by the Azerbaijanian mass media reports about the four-day delay of the Armenian military experts. The Armenian military experts arrived in Moscow exactly on time, the news agency insists, asserting that the protocol on the cease-fire mechanism was signed September 25.

Issues Statement on Cease-Fire Violations

LD2609154292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russia 1339 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Report by Islam Kuliyev from Baku]

[Excerpt] [Kuliyev] Perhaps I should begin this account on events in Azerbaijan with the fact that no sensations occurred today. The cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabakh—which was due to begin today under the terms of the Sochi accord—has not taken place. The Armenian side has broken this agreement too. This is stated in an Azerbaijan Defense Ministry statement.

Armenia's armed forces, it says, in their now established best tradition have presented us with their latest bloody surprise in Nagorno-Karabakh. Taking advantage of the cease-fire order for Azerbaijan's armed forces, the Armenian expeditionary corps has launched into a powerful offensive, subjecting populated localities in Khodzhavend and Agdam districts to rocket and artillery bombardment.

Nor are the Armenian armed forces deployed directly on their own territory keeping outside this action. They

have been aiming their heavy rocket launchers and artillery at the Tauz, Kazakh, and other districts of Azerbaijan.

The pessimistic predictions of the Azerbaijan defense ministry that the opponent wishes to take advantage of the truce agreement to build up its military presence in Nagorno-Karabakh have been confirmed. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Comments on Cease-Fire

NC2609203892 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text of statement issued by Defense Minister Rakhim Gaziyev; date, place not given]

[Text] The Azerbaijan Government highly appreciates the significant effort made by all the sides to find a peaceful solution to the bloody dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Our republic's leaders have supported the mediation effort made by the European Community, Russia, and Kazakhstan and clearly made it known that they uphold peace and the finding of a political solution to the dispute. Acting in accordance with the UN Charter and the CSCE principles and remaining committed to the provisions included in the agreement reached in Sochi on 19 September, they instructed all the armed units to halt all their combat operations and cease firing as of midnight on 25 September.

In accordance with the provisions of the agreement, all the sides should have exchanged protocols related to the withdrawal of the armed units and the establishment of the mechanism for the supervision of the implementation of the agreements. An Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense delegation arrived in Moscow to establish this mechanism on 21 September. However, Armenia's representatives failed to arrive in Moscow. Consequently, the protocols have not been exchanged. Naturally, halting the exchange of fire, moving to end the combat operations, and [words indistinct] before the protocols are exchanged is impossible. Obviously, the maintenance of the criminal [word indistinct] has created significant doubt on the Armenian side's wish to find a just and peaceful solution to the dispute.

The disclosure made by the so-called Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's plenipotentiary representative in Yerevan in one of the newscasts of [name indistinct] television network to the effect that Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sargsyan has not been authorized to sign an agreement for the imposition of a cease-fire in Karabakh was completely unexpected. I wish to recall that Sargsyan disclosed during the meeting held by the defense ministers that the Armenian armed units involved in the clashes in Azerbaijan were under his jurisdiction. If what he said conflicted with the realities, then the talks, the cease-fire agreements, and the most valuable effort made by the mediators are completely meaningless.

Nevertheless, I continue to respect the sincere wish of the mediators to have peace established in the region. Therefore, I will continue to keep my orders in effect.

'Little Hope' of Cease-Fire in Nagorno-Karabakh

LD2509235492 Moscow Radiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Report by correspondent M. Mamedov from the Azerbaijan side in Nagorno-Karabakh; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] In upper Karabakh, escalation of the fighting continues. Fierce battles are being fought in Agdamskiy and Agdzhabedinskiy rayons. There are dead and wounded, the exact number of which is still not known.

Last night Zangelanskiy Rayon, which is adjacent to Armenia, was shelled yet again, despite the fact that under the accords achieved between the two Transcaucasian republics at the meeting in Sadarak, the truce conditions applied to it, too.

There is still a complicated situation in the area around the Lachin corridor, in the environs of the strategically important village of Gochaz.

Will the guns remain silent tonight as the defense ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia agreed? Experts in Baku think there is little hope of that. They base their forecast on the fact that a precise mechanism for the cease-fire throughout the front line has not been worked out.

Moreover, according to a report from the Azerbaijan Defense Ministry, a delegation from the military department has been in Moscow, but representatives of the Ministry of Defense of Armenia have still not arrived there. The talks are supposed to be continued here and conditions are to be worked out for the withdrawal of the armed formations from the conflict zone, as well as measures to monitor the observation of the accords.

Georgia

Shevardnadze To Meet Yeltsin To 'Save' Ties

LD2709192192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1545 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Video report by N. Gongadze; from the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Georgia's position was well received at the United Nations. These were the first words that Eduard Shevardnadze said to journalists at Moscow Airport following his return from New York.

[Gongadze] [Video shows UN building, including Shevardnadze shaking hands with Butrus-Ghali] The international community cannot allow the progressive principle of popular self-determination to be used by

national minorities to undermine the territorial integrity of democratic states. This is what the delegates were saying to the 47th UN General Assembly, while at the same time Russian parliamentarians in Moscow were adopting a decision on Abkhazia which infringes upon the interests and rights of sovereign Georgia. The latest events have forced Eduard Shevardnadze to stop off in Moscow on his way home from New York in order to meet Boris Yeltsin tomorrow.

[Begin Shevardnadze recording, on board aircraft] I cannot recall any precedent for such crude, high-handed, and unforgiveable interference in the internal affairs of our republic. On the agenda now are Russo-Georgian relations and how to save them. I am sure that President Yeltsin does not share these views. As far as Abkhazia is concerned, we have to define where we stand. Either we and Russia are going to be partners, equal partners with no one telling the other what to do, or we will have to tell Russia: You mind your own business in the North Caucasus, and we will find a solution with the Abkhazians without you and your mediation. [end recording]

The chairman of the Georgian State Council also stressed that tomorrow's talks with President Yeltsin, scheduled for 1700 as already reported, will deal not with Abkhazia, but the with the future of Russo-Georgian relations. My aim, he said in an interview, is to save these relations. That is the Georgian view of the conflict with Russia over the Russian parliament's declaration on the situation in Abkhazia.

Vice Premier Accuses Russia of Interference

OW2609142692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1308 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian Vice Premier, chairman of the republic's international relations and human rights committee Aleksandr Kavsadze reproach the Russian Parliament for its resolution Friday [25 September] in relation to the situation in Northern Caucasus and developments in Abkhazia.

"Deplorably," Mr. Kavsadze said in an interview for INTERFAX, "The Russian Parliament took advantage of the situation in Northern Caucasus for interfering in the internal affairs of a sovereign state—the Georgian Republic. Symptomatically, the supreme legislative body of the Russian Federation found it possible to reconsider the Final Document of the Moscow summit Sept. 3 regarding the situation in Abkhazia with the participation of Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze, demanding that its results be revised."

The RF [Russian Federation] parliament advised Boris Yeltsin to expedite the initiation of a new meeting of the Russian, Georgian and Abkhazian leaders, as well as representatives of republics and territories in the Northern Caucasus for the purpose of effecting unconditional cease fire in Abkhazia. The Russian Parliament recommended to the president to hold up the transfer of the Russian army units combat material and equipment to Georgia.

"There is every reason to presume," Mr. Kavsadze noted, "that the Russian Parliament is not content with the outcome of the Moscow summit. At the same time, they are ultimately disregarding the fundamental changes of the situation there which occurred recently. They produce a need for another meeting on the same level of representation with only one innovation: This should be a tripartite assembly with the participation of then Abkhazian, Georgian and Russian sides". In the opinion of the Georgian vice premier, such an approach would refashion the actual situation, upgrading Abkhazia to the rank of a sovereign state, such as Georgia or Russia". [quotation marks as received]

"Apparently, the Russian Parliament, as a minimum, has already indirectly resolved for itself the issue of sovereignty for Abkhazia, and, for the purpose of finding the way out of the situation which has developed there it demanded to place its troops in the Abkhazian region." "Such steps can only be regarded as occupation of the Georgian territory," Mr. Kavsadze emphasized, "which has nothing in common with the peace endeavors aimed at rendering assistance to a neighboring country when any measures, including military operations, are planned and effected in the framework of joint efforts".

In the opinion of Mr. Kavsadze, "The conservative group of the Russian parliamentarians are trying to torpedo President Yeltsin's new policy in the New Foreign Countries [capitalization as received] in order to force him to return to the time-tested path of resolving international issues by the use of force. By and large, one could expect that the conservatives would try to resort to arms twisting in regards to the Russian president, and try to isolate him from his team. In beginning their attack, the conservatives are capitalizing on the Abkhazian issue which is may lead to undermine Russia's prestige on the international arena, so long as its Supreme Council is exceeding its vested authority by way of addressing the issue which fall under the jurisdiction of another sovereign state".

According to Mr. Kavsadze, this Saturday Georgia is expected to officially respond to the documents produced by the Russian Parliament in relation with the situation in Abkhazia.

Abkhazian Leader Criticizes Russian Statement

OW2609201292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1914 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The first deputy chairman of the Abkhazian Supreme Council, Tamaz Nadereishvili, who represents the Georgian stratum of the population in the autonomy, maintains that "the fact itself that the Russian parliament was addressing the the developments in Abkhazia

constitutes a case on interference by Russia in the internal affairs of a foreign state".

"I am hopeful," Mr. Nadereishvili said in an interview for Interfax, "that the Russian parliament statement had an advisory character". He said that he was "absolutely perplexed" by Russia's demand that the Georgian troops be pulled out of the Abkhazian territory.

Mr. Nadereishvili expressed concern that the process of disarmament and dissolvement of the unlawful armed formations and groups dispatched to Abkhazia by the Confederation of the Caucasian Peoples has not been initiated.

In commenting on the Russian parliamentarians' proposal to introduce peacekeeping forces to Abkhazia, Mr Nadereishvili averred that were already available in the region in the form of combined observation posts set both along the river Gumista and Gagra region.

Abkhazia Cease-Fire Agreement Violated

LD2509154992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1504 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow September 25 TASS—Shooting continued in Sukhumi, capital of Abkhazia, on Friday [25 September] despite a ceasefire agreement reached by the warring sides on September 23.

A shoot-out was registered at a bridge in Eshery at 11:40, which was stamped out only after military observers interfered.

Other agreements, including to create a one-kilometer demilitarised zone near the village of Kolkhida and hold a meeting of military heads of Georgia and Abkhazia originally scheduled for September 24, are also being violated. The meeting was planned to be attended by Viktor Kakaliaya and Georgiy Karkarashviliy who had to work out a mechanism for disengaging the warring factions.

Only one out of the whole package of decisions adopted by the commission monitoring the situation Abkhazia on September 9, 1992 has been implemented in Abkhazia so far—to disengage the warring sides near the Gumista River. Such a situation cannot satisfy Russia, which is acting as a mediator in the conflict settlement, Sergey Shoigu, head of the Russian State Commission for Emergency Situations, said.

Today is the deadline for Georgia's ultimatum to Abkhazia urging the Confederation of Highland Nations to pull out its troops from Abkhazia. Georgia warned it will take all measures to drive the troops from the republic if the ultimatum is ignored.

A group of representatives of North Caucasian republics reached an agreement with commanders of volunteer units in Gudauta on Friday on their soon withdrawal from Abkhazia, reliable sources said.

Accord Reached on Separating Sides in Abkhazia

LD2609172492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in Russian 1529 GMT 26 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow, September 26—An agreement on separating the conflicting sides near the village of Kolkhida on 27 September was reached at the meeting of representatives of the commission for monitoring and inspection in Abkhazia, which took place in Sukhumi today. Simultaneously, four combined observation posts are to be placed in the corridor that will have been formed. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this on the telephone by the commission's press center. Sources in Gudauta report that an initiative group from the Chechen republic led by Colonel Ibragim Suleymenov, chairman of the Committee for Defense and Security of the Chechen parliament, is staying there. The main task of the group is to study the issues relating to the return to Groznyy of the volunteer detachments taking part in combat actions in Abkhazia. The first batch of volunteers will go back home in the next few days. They will be dispatched unarmed from the airport in Gudauta.

Caucasian Confederation Troops To Withdraw

OW2609200592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1914 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At the talks in Sukhumi Saturday [26 September], the sides reached an agreement in regards to a stage-by-stage pullout from Abkhazia of the armed formations of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples, first and foremost, of the detachments composed predominantly of the Chechen volunteers. This information was provided to Interfax by chairman of the provisional committee for stabilizing the situation in Abkhazia, Givi Lominadze. In his words, beginning from Monday, Sept. 28, the volunteers of the Confederation of the Caucasian Peoples will be airlifted from the airfield in the vicinity of Gudauta. The troops pullout will be monitored by a mixer observer commission.

The talks in Sukhumi were attended by representatives of Georgia, Abkhazia, the Confederation of the Caucasian Peoples, the parliament of the Chechen Republic, and the Russian peacekeeping forces.

In the words of Mr. Lominadze, the meeting Saturday produced a "major step forward" on the way toward achieving settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia. "Until recently, the settlement issues have been handled mainly by politicians," he said. "Now, that the military have taken over, there is every reason to hope that this agreement will be effectively realized".

Volunteers' Withdrawal Delayed

OW2709172092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1650 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] As IF [INTERFAX] learned at the Abkhazian defence headquarters in Gudauta, Saturday [26 September] evening 4 Georgian helicopters bombed the village of Merkula in Ochamchira District of Abkhazia. Subsequently Georgian tanks and armoured vehicles invaded the village.

Last night Abkhazian militiamen launched a counter-attack and liberated Merkula. As a result of a fierce battle Georgian army units retreated, losing some 100 men and 4 armoured vehicles. One Abkhazian militiaman was killed; 5 others were wounded.

According to the commandant of Ochamchira Anzor Margiani, those to blame for the incident in Merkula were Abkhazian militiamen who suddenly attacked a post of Georgian troops, killing one guardsman and wounding two. 2 helicopter gunships were called from Sukhumi to repulse the attackers. The incident resulted in many casualties and fatalities.

On Sunday the press service of Abkhazia's parliament published a communique in connection with the developments in Ochamchir District. The communique qualifies as unprecedented the fact that Georgian troops launched their raid on Merkula on the day when in Sukhumi spokesmen for Georgia, Abkhazia and Chechnia agreed to withdraw Chechen volunteers from Abkhazia. The withdrawal was to begin on Monday from Gudauta's airfield.

The communique points out: "Since Georgia persists in violating the ceasefire agreement, the command of Abkhazia's militia decided to revise the time for the withdrawal of North-Caucasian volunteers". A new timing for withdrawal is not mentioned.

The Abkhazian defence headquarters told IF with reference to a leading member of the CCMP [Confederation of Caucasus Mountain Peoples] that the time for withdrawing North-Caucasian volunteers must coincide with the removal of Georgian troops from Abkhazia.

Fighting Continues Near Gagra; Calm in Sukhumi

OW2809115092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1125 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Reports from Abkhazia speak of overnight calm outside the capital Sukhumi, and the villages of Upper and Lower Eshera, but fighting continued unabated close to the town of Gagra.

Officials of Abkhazia's interim adminstration committee in Sukhumi told IF [INTERFAX] that one soldier of the Georgian Guard was killed and eight others were wounded in overnight fighting outside Gagra. The Georgian forces are said to have freed thirty Georgian hostages in the nearby village of Okhtary which is under control by Abkhazian irregulars. The hostages said famine had now started in the Gudauta region, with the Georgian community being worst hit.

The agreement on the disengagement of troops near Gagra is not yet in force, with Abkhazian and Russian observers from the tripartite peace monitoring commission failing to arrive in the region.

There were no ceasefire violations overnight near Sukhumi and Eshery, Abkhazian military officials in Gudauta said referring to the report by a mixed team of observers there.

Abkhazian positions near Gagra came under fire by Georgian government troops who lost two army vehicles following an abortive attempt on Sunday night to capture a strategic hilltop there.

There was further fighting close to Merkula and Tamysh villages in the Ochamchir region, but no word is given of casualty.

Gamsakurdia Supporters Hold Mass Meetings

LD2509234592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Report by Nikolay Mamalashvili]

[Text] On 24 September, a mass meeting of supporters of ex- President Zviad Gamsakhurdia took place in Zugdidi. Those taking part demanded the return of Zviad Gamsakhurdia as president and the restoration of the parliament's powers. At present, Zugdidi, which is the center of the Zviadist movement in Georgia, is actually under the control of supporters of the ex-president, who have the support of a certain part of the civilian population and who, moreover, have a considerable amount of weapons at their disposal.

A similar mass meeting also took place in Khobi. As is known, a well-armed group of about 200 Zviadists burst into that town a few days ago. Its leaders stated that they would not permit the holding of parliamentary elections in this town and would take physical reprisals against those attempting to take part in the elections. The current situation in Mingrelia is as follows: three towns—Zugdidi, Khobi, and Tsalendzhikha—are fully or partially under the Zviadists' control and the holding of elections there is threatened with disruption. At any rate, the armed groups of the ex-president's supporters will do everything possible in order not to hold elections there. The remaining four towns of this region, however, are controlled by units of Georgia's policy and internal troops. A disruption of elections is therefore unlikely in those towns.

Government Forces Retake Control of Khobi

OW2609142892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1310 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the early morning today, the Georgian forces occupied the town of Khobi in the western part of the republic which had been held for the recent ten days by ex-president Gamsakhurdia's followers. A spokesman for the Georgian State Council informed INTERFAX that "the bandits fled to the nearby woods without a fight". Gamsakhurdia followers, reportedly, are undertaking armed raids in western Georgia seeking to obstruct the parliamentary elections there scheduled for October 11.

Counterattack Fails

LD2709124092 Moscow TASS-ITAR World Service in Russian 1140 GMT 27 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS freelance correspondent Mikhail Kasoyev]

[Text] Tbilisi, 27 Sep—The armed supporters of former Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who on 26 September surrendered the town of Khobi without giving any resistance to a national police unit, last night made a counterattack. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the Georgian press center that a detachment of 200 people armed with machine guns and grenade launchers tried to enter Khobi, but they were met on the outskirts by police fire. According to Colonel Elgudzhi Butskhrikidze, head of the temporary police staff in the region, one officer of the law-enforcement forces was killed. There is no information on casualties on the attackers' side.

Guards Disarm Ossetian Peacekeepers

LD2509212792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1635 GMT 25 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS free-lance correspondent Mikhail Kasoyev]

[Text] Tbilisi September 25 TASS—The Procurator's Office of Gori, a town situated near Tskhinvali, began today the investigation of an incident between members of the Georgian and Ossetian peace- keeping battalions.

A group of Georgian guards stopped a truck carrying Ossetian battalion soldiers on a road in the Georgian control zone, checked the vehicle, disarmed the soldiers and arrested them.

The investigation has two versions: First—an incident that provoked no complications in the region occurred as the guards were drunk, second—a wanted unregistered hand machine-gun was found in the Ossetian truck.

Lithuania

Landsbergis Holds News Conference 24 Sep

LD2509224192

[Editorial Report] Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian at 0630 GMT on 24 September broadcasts a live relay of the news conference given in Vilnius by Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis on his return from a visit to Belgium.

The news conference begins with Landsbergis briefly describing his meetings in Belgium with various personalities. He goes on to say: "The general conclusion after my conversations can be that Europe's interest in the Baltic region has not weakened. The withdrawal of the Russian Army is understood by all as very urgent. This can be seen also in the debates which are taking place in the U.S. Senate. The NATO leaders stressed very clearly that the North Atlantic Organization is interested in a correct progress of events in the Baltic region and in the stability of Lithuania so that it is not pressed from outside.

"These matters were also reflected in conversations with the European president, Mr. Delors. It was a very specific conversation about economic relations, economic aid, everything that links us with the EC and will link us even more in the future. We agreed that the granting of preferences to Lithuania will continue. This is linked with our agreement, the agreement on trade and coperation. This granting of preferences was envisioned for this year only. It eases the way for Lithuanian products to West European markets. It is very important that this does not cease at the end of this year. We agreed on this.

"We also discussed the speedier provision of assistance to Lithuania."

Landsbergis then says: "The 100 million ECUs [European currency unit] aid linked with our difficulties in obtaining oil and especially with difficulties experienced by our people with the supply of liquified gas will be realized. This aid will probably be given soon."

After noting that Lithuania's agreement with the EC is likely to be ratified soon, Landsbergis says: "We agreed with Mr. Delors that in the nearest future a special commission of the 24-state structure will arrive in Lithuania to examine the situation in agriculture."

After noting the difficulties in agriculture and recalling the official opening of the Lithuanian Embassy in Brussels, Landsbergis says he is ready to answer questions.

Asked to describe his conversations with Woerner, Landsbergis says: "We met in his office and discussed events taking place in Lithuania after the signing of the agreement on the withdrawal of the Russian Army and after seeing certain changes in Russian foreign policy. They are reflected in statements by various politicians and are sometimes heard from the Foreign MiInistry. They are Russia's efforts to convince the world public that Russia has some special rights in the Baltic states. We are mostly interested in instances when they speak of the zones of vital interests and so on, with easily understood justifications of possible interference in the future. This must be made public, must be seen. We see this and draw the attention of the world community to this and especially the attention of such organizations as NATO whose vocation is stability and peace in the whole of Europe".

Asked about his statement in Brussels concerning Russia's attitude to the army's withdrawal, Landsbergis says: "There were questions about our response to the statements by the Russian parliament's foreign affairs committee. I have expressed my opinion that such statements have no legal significance. It does not weaken interstate agreements signed by Lithuania and Russia. It must be regarded as an event in Russia's domestic policy and as an attack by a certain conservative opposition against President Yeltsin's foreign policy toward Lithuania".

Asked about the withdrawal of the Russian Army, Landsbergis continues: "I have already spoken about the revision of agreements. These are matters of domestic policy and the issue of army withdrawal is used against President Yeltsin. Of course, if some revision is imposed or the cancellation or abolition of the signed agreement takes place, this would discredit the whole of Russian policy, it would discredit Russia itself as a state. I think that this will not happen."

Landsbergis goes on: "I have already stated before, and I think there is no doubt about it, that the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Lithuania will be observed with great attention by the world politicians, states, political forces, and international organizations. This itself will be such a natural monitoring which will help the withdrawal to be orderly and correct, as it is in the withdrawal of Russian troops from Germany."

Speaking of the U.S. attitude to army withdrawal, Landsbergis says: "This is partly a traditional U.S. policy going back to the times of President Reagan. President Reagan defined a very clear principle in relations with the Soviet Union at that time, that the improvement of relations and a certain aid would be linked with the Soviet Union's behavior, its internatonal behavior, political trend, encouraging a correct policy, such as the withdrawal of the army from Afghanistan and so on. In pursuing this path a great deal has been achieved and the United States has not forgotten this method. It is being applied to other states, too, linking aid with the policy of that country."

Landsbergis goes on to answer questions concerning Lithuania's wish to be integrated in Europe and about his speech to be delivered at the UN General Assembly.

Asked in Polish by a Polish correspondent about the possibility that there might be no withdrawal of Russian troops, Landsbergis says: "I have not heard that the Russian Army might change its present readiness. I have

no such information. It seems to me that everything is taking place as agreed and we have no doubts about it."

Replying to further questions concerning the withdrawal of the Russian Army and its participation in conflicts in some parts of the former USSR, Landsbergis continues:

"The participation of the Russian Army in armed conflicts was not discussed in a concrete manner at the NATO meetings, but I especially stressed there and in other places that it is impermissible to mix up into one such ball, or to put into one basket—as is said by politicians in the West— matters which are in two different baskets. This is the withdrawal of the army. A foreign army in a state which does not agree with the deployment of that army, must be withdrawn. This is a universal principle, confirmed in many recent international conferences concerning security issues. It has also been consolidated in the Helsinki Declaration and it is being implemented. Russia agrees, accepts this principle, and is beginning to implement it. This is the basket which also contains specific technical issues of army withdrawal, certain rules which are observed by that army until it is not completely withdrawn.

"I informed the NATO leadership about how this matter is being solved in our country. This is a positive matter, essential to all—to Lithuania, to Russia, and to the whole region.

"A different set of issues are the affairs of the minorities. There have been occasions to talk about it, about how they are increasing in Western Europe and at that same time to explain how we in Lithuania are solving practically and within the law the fact that our national minorities have no basis for dissatisfaction with independent democratic Lithuania. This is in our interest. This is all a matter for another basket. Those who attempt to mix this are looking for pretexts: treat the army as a minority, or talk about the rights of the military which must be defended, and so on. We have seen many such mixtures and, probably, they will continue in the future. Therefore, we must ourselves very clearly separate these matters and prevent them from being mixed up."

Asked about when the decision was made to withdraw rubles from circulation and for how long coupons will be in use, Landsbergis says: "It seems to me that it was stated yesterday when this decision was made. Such document was signed some time ago at the meeting of the Litas Committee, leaving the announcement of the specific date to the government, and the premier did this yesterday. It was the opinion of the Litas Committee and of the experts who have been consulted that the use of coupons for a certain period of time is the most convenient. I will not tell you the length of that period for two reasons. One of them is that it is a secret, and the second is that this period has not been strictly fixed."

Asked whether it would not be possible to concluded an agreement with Yeltsin to withdraw the Russian Army before the elections on 25 October, Landsbergis replies: "There is no such possibility. President Yeltsin would be very astonished if we asked for the army to be withdrawn by 25 October."

He concludes by saying: "I think that what has been signed is sufficient for the withdrawal of the army. We have no grounds to doubt this."

Landsbergis To Meet Yeltsin in October

LD2509170692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1556 GMT 25 Sep 92

[By Kazis Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius September 25 TASS—Lithuanian Supreme Soviet Chairman Vitautas Landsbergis will meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin in October, 1992.

An agreement to this effect was reached during a telephone conversation of the two states' leaders, Lithuanian parliament spokesman Audrius Azubalis said here today.

The sides expressed their agreement the working groups of Russia and Lithuania shall meet in the near future to continue the improvement of documents that remained unsigned at the previous Lithuanian-Russian summit, said the spokesman.

The date of the new summit will be coordinated.

Russia Threatens Cutoff of Natural Gas

OW2509173592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1540 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On October 2nd Russia will cut off deliveries of natural gas to Lithuania if the republic does not take immediate measures to pay off its debts for gas already supplied worth more than 6 bn rubles and if no preliminary payment has been made for deliveries within five days. The Lithuanian Government received a telegram on Thursday [24 September] informing them of this from the gas concern Lentransgas in St. Petersburg.

As is already known, since August 20th supplies of natural gas to Lithuania were cut by 55

for the same reason. Now the republic receives 4 mn [million] cubic meters a day. Lithuania has been paying 4000 rubles per 1000 cubic meters of gas, as was agreed upon in an inter-governmental treaty. But as of August 1st suppliers raised prices to 90 dollars for 1000 cu. meters, demanding payment in rubles at an exchange rate set by the Central Bank of Russia on the day of delivery.

On Friday Lithuanian government representatives in Moscow planned to meet with people in the Russian Ministry for Fuel and Energy to try to settle the price issue. But, according to Lithuanian Vice Prime Minister for the Economy [title as received] Vytas Navickas, there is little

hope. "I think that this problem can only be solved on the highest level," he told a Baltfax correspondent.

Lithuanian representatives are also continuing work on an expert level to prepare a packet of agreements on mutual accounts between Lithuania and Russia. The Lithuanian side is hoping that by October 1st the heads of government will sign these and other economic documents.

Ministry Protests Russian Army Operations

LD2509160292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1417 GMT 25 Sep 92

[By Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius September 25 TASS—The Lithuanian National Security Ministry protested against Russian Army activities in the republic.

Soldiers of the 108th Russian artillery regiment of the 7th Airborne Division stationed in Lithuania were practicing target shooting near the city of Kaunas at 16:30 on September 21 when sixteen shells hit an open-cast mine of the local ceramics factory. None of the workers were injured. One shell destroyed a high-voltage power line, leaving the factory without electricity.

"Such activities of the army of a foreign state violate the agreement on the withdrawal of Russian troops from the republic and activities of Russian troops in Lithuania signed on september 8, 1992, in Moscow by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and minister of the Lithuanian National Guard Minister Audrius Butkevicius," the note issued by the ministry on Friday [25 September] said.

Russian Motorized Division Begins Withdrawal

LD2509174592 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] The BALTIC NEWS SERVICE reports that the 107th Motorized Infantry Division has started its departure from Lithuania. The first trainload with approximately 90 units of military equipment departed last Monday from the military camp in Ukmerge and the Kopusteliai forest near Ukmerge.

According to Stasys Knezys, the representative of the Lithuanian Government for issues on the withdrawal of the Army, the armored forces and other military equipment of the 107th Division are concentrated in these places. Mr. Knezys told a BALTIC NEWS SERVICE correspondent that a few days ago he approved an application by division representatives to send a second trainload of military hardware. By 25 October, all units of this motorized infantry division should have left Ukmerge.

The division's garrison, the so called Northern townlet in Vilnius, is much slower to move. Although it has also started moving, 1,500 servicemen say they are unable to move faster because 60 percent of the townlet's contingent are officers.

According to the timetable on the withdrawal of the Russian Army, the main forces of the 107th Motorized Infantry Division must leave Lithuania by the end of November, and the entire division must depart by the end of this year.